



FriendshipWorks

Ending Elder Isolation

105 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA 02111

(617) 482-1510

www.fw4elders.org



FriendshipWorks



FriendshipWorks was founded in 1984 to meet the needs of frail and isolated seniors. For the last 30 years, the organization has resolutely pursued its mission to reduce isolation, enhance the quality of life, and preserve the dignity of older adults in the Boston area.

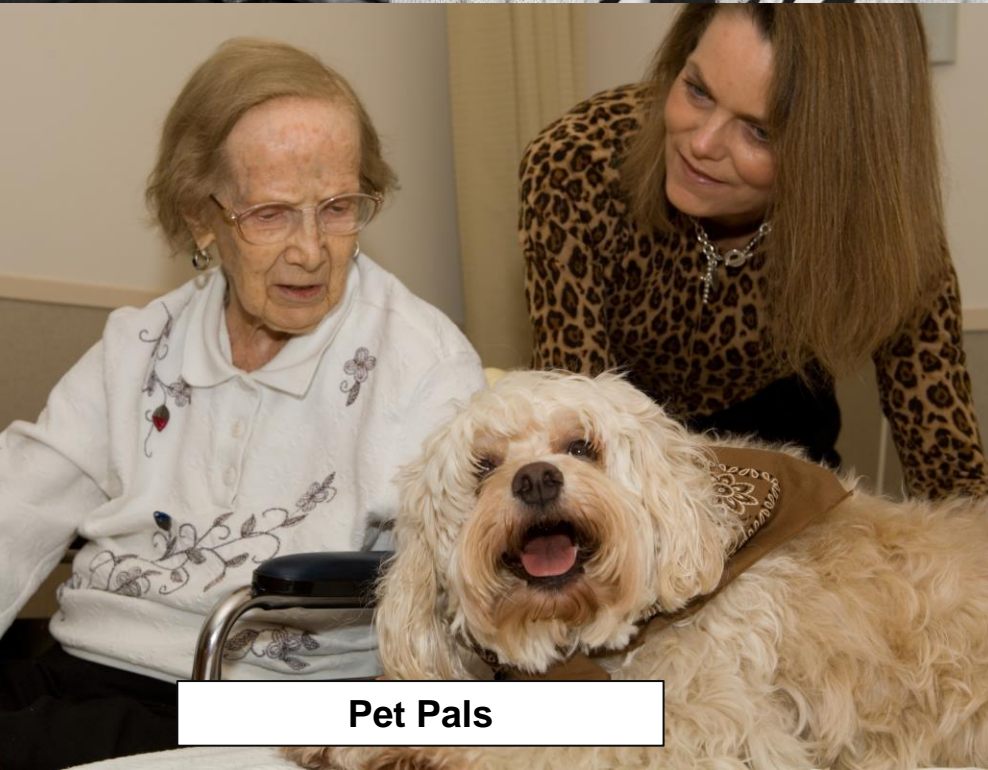




Friendly Visiting



Friendly Helping



Pet Pals



La Cadena de Amistad

Medical Escort Program



FriendshipWorks provides volunteer escorts door-through-door for elders (60+) in Boston and Brookline. This is not a transportation program, but helps those who need extra assistance accessing health care.



Elders require escorts for a range of needs that transportation options alone cannot meet, including:

- Physical disability (vision, mobility)
- Emotional support
- Hospital requirement for procedure (colonoscopy, cataracts, outpatient surgery)
- Language (Spanish)

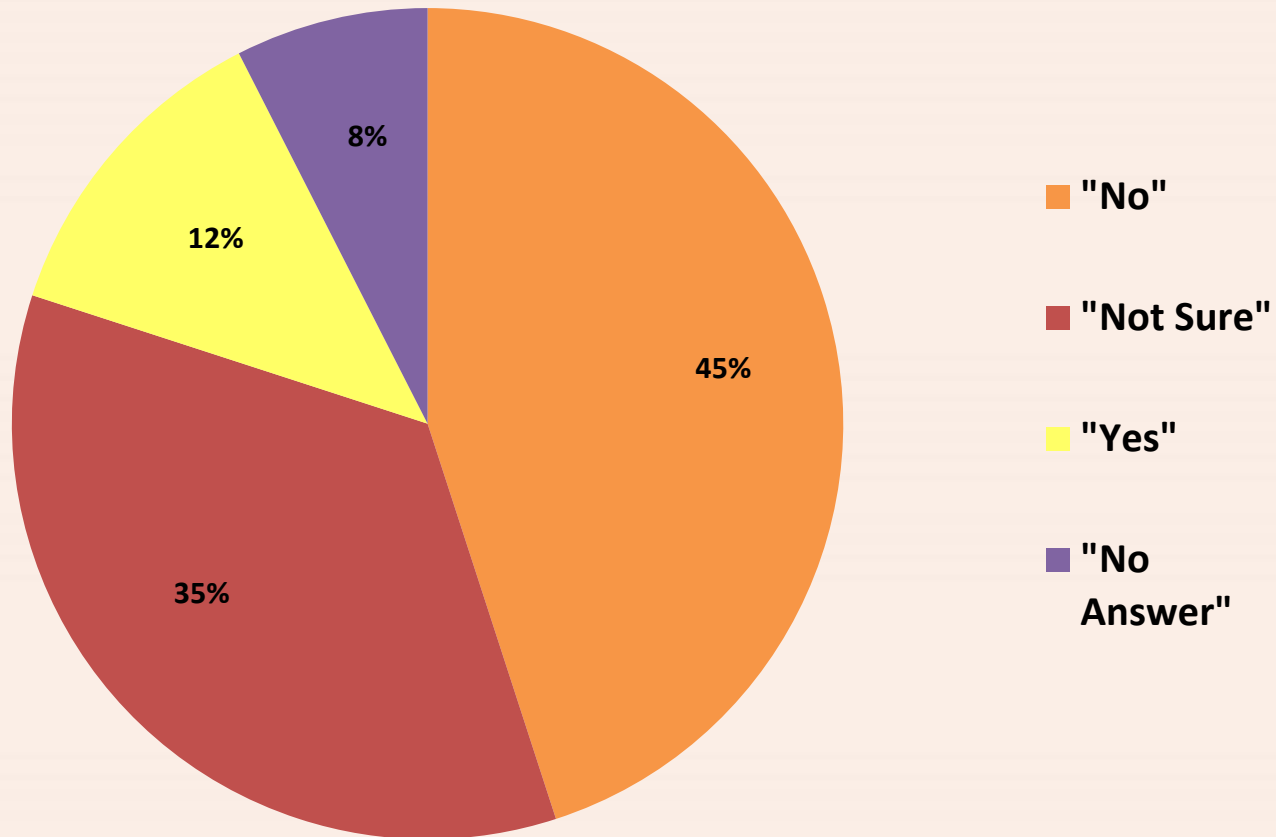
“I get assistance to the door of the hospital, after that I’m on my own... I’ve run into difficulties before.”

*-New service recipient, March 2017
on why she needs extra help*

"You just don't know what this means to me... I don't feel like going blind just because the hospital is 5 minutes away and I can't get to it."

-Service recipient, May 2016

Would you be able to attend your appointments without FriendshipWorks' assistance? (FY 16 Survey)



Key Components

- Free
- Volunteers
- Escorts, NOT Transportation
- Volunteers make their own schedules



Benefits

- Reduces burnout
- Minimal cost
- Discourages abuse
- Larger volunteer pool

Challenges

- Gaps (challenging geography, times)
- Time consuming scheduling
- Dependency on 3rd party transportation means delays/problems common
- Limitations (e.g. advanced needs)

FriendshipWorks
105 Chauncy Street,
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 482-1510
www.fw4elders.org