

Who we are In 1946, French nobleman Armand Marquiset established *Les petits frères des Pauvres* (Little Brothers of the Poor) to serve the Elderly people of Paris who lost their savings and family connections in the devastation of World War II. The organization's motto *flowers before bread* expresses our belief that man does not live by bread alone: It is the human touch that makes life worth living.

In 1959 three *petits frères* workers organized the first U.S. Little Brothers facility in Chicago. Our national office was established in Chicago in 1981. For nearly 50 years, our staff, our volunteer base and the number of "Old Friends" we serve have steadily increased. Marquiset's unique vision of extending friendship to isolated elders has guided us as we've expanded to eight other U.S. cities and and look ahead to future growth.

We are nonsectarian and welcome seniors, volunteers, donors and staff from a wide range of ages and backgrounds to join and enhance our growing community.

Whom we serve As the aging population in our city increases, more and more seniors are growing old without meaningful family or social relationships. Many cannot leave their homes unassisted, are on limited incomes and may go days without speaking to another person. We extend true friendship to over 1,000 seniors of many cultures, including Spanish-speaking, and provide a caring community where they feel valued. All programs are free to our Old Friends, and we pledge to stay with them until the end of their lives.

If you know - or are - a Chicagoan over 70 years old and in need of friendship, please contact us.

What we offer to seniors Friendship is expressed in many ways and the variety of our programs and services reflects that. These programs build a sense of belonging and well-being among our Old Friends.

Visiting Program: We match volunteers one-on-one with elders to develop friendships through regular visits, phone calls and outings.

Nursing Home Program: We partner with nursing homes and visit seniors who need consistent friendship from "the outside."
Celebrations of Life: Year-round we host gatherings of two to 200 seniors and volunteers. If there is a reason for a party - birthdays, Passover, Halloween, Easter - we'll find it.
Summer Vacations: At our country home in Rochelle, Illinois, seniors escape the city for a few days - eating well, joining in activities and relaxing as they choose.

Special Programs and Assistance: Further gestures of friendship and advocacy include outings, food bag delivery to elders in need, a Christmas gift program, education on issues affecting seniors, and a book club.
Intergenerational Program: Through interactions and service learning activities we promote volunteerism and mutual respect between seniors and students of all ages.



Why volunteers are important

Our volunteers make it possible to enrich as many lives as we do each and every day. They are the heart and soul of our organization. There are many ways our volunteers share their talents - everything from visiting with a senior in their home to planning a fund-raising event. The flexible schedules and diverse activities we offer make it easier for people to volunteer their time.

What donations make possible

We are able to offer our lifetime of commitment for no charge to our Old Friends thanks to generous donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. As a private charity we receive no government or United Way funding. There are a variety of ways to contribute including cash donations, bequests, memorials, sponsorships, in-kind gifts, and help with fund-raising events. Such gifts enable us to continue our work of easing loneliness among the elderly of Chicago.

For more information about volunteering, making a donation, referring an elder contact us today at 312.455.1000 or visit littlebrothers.org/chicago.





Our mission statement Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly is a national, nonprofit, volunteer-based organization committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We offer to people of goodwill the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and the celebration of life.

Contact Little Brothers — Friends of the Elderly Chicago Chapter today for more information. 312.455.1000



Chicago Chapter

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Learn about us

It is the human touch
that makes life
worth living



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