



FACTS ABOUT LITTLE BROTHERS - FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY CHICAGO CHAPTER



Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) is a national network of nonprofit volunteer-based organizations committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We offer to people of good will the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life.

Our Motto: *flowers before bread* expresses our philosophy that people need the special pleasures in life in addition to the basic necessities. We feel that love and dignity and beauty in life are as basic as physical needs.

Programs and Services: Our core programs and activities focus on friendship and are free-of-charge for the participants. The **Visiting Programs** bring volunteers and staff to visit elders in their homes (including nursing homes) to create long-standing friendships. **Celebrations of Life** include regularly scheduled luncheons, outings, birthday parties (on-site and in-home) and large gatherings on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and Easter. The **Summer Vacation Program** offers three-day vacation excursions to various destinations in IL, IN and WI. **Special Programs & Advocacy** include special interest clubs, a Holiday Gift Program, food bag delivery, case management, expertise and referrals that help elders remain connected, secure, independent and in their own homes as long as possible.

The Elderly: We support almost 1,120 Chicago men and women who are growing old alone without meaningful connections or support from family and friends. They are all 70 years of age or older, with an average age of 83; 36% are Caucasian, 41% are African American, 21% are Latino and 2% are Asian or of other cultures. Our old friends are predominantly women (80%) reflecting national trends that find one of the fastest growing population segments in the country to be women over 80 living alone.

Financial Sources: Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly is a nonsectarian organization funded by donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. We do not receive United Way or government funding.

History: Founded in 1946 in France by Armand Marquiset. The Chicago Chapter opened in 1959 (the first U.S. location). There are now nine U.S. Chapters, including Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Omaha and Houghton County in Michigan.

The Results: During the 2009 Program Year:

- ✓ 9,536 personal visits and calls of reassurance were provided to 1,119 of our old friends.
- ✓ On 3,867 instances we celebrated life with our elders at “Celebration of Life” gatherings, including luncheons, in-home parties, birthday parties and social outings.

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- ✓ 1,942 of our elder friends participated in holiday activities, home-delivered holiday meals and holiday visits in their homes.
- ✓ 1,061 food bags were delivered to our old friends most in need.
- ✓ On 1,979 separate occasions, volunteers and staff extended special assistance to our old friends.

Volunteer Opportunities: Because we are a volunteer-based organization, there are many ways to get involved as a volunteer. Positions can fit any schedule and include:

Visiting Volunteer	On-Site Party Assistance	Clerical Assistance
Driver	Food Bag Delivery	Fundraising
In-home Celebrations	Summer Vacation	Special Projects
Phone Visitor	Outing Assistance	Photography

During the 2009 Program Year, **more than 1,440 volunteers gave 40, 948 hours of service** to visit, host parties, vacation with our old friends, go on outings, deliver emergency food and provide transportation.

To volunteer with the LBFE Chicago Chapter, contact Phyllis Barker, Director of Volunteer Services, at 312.455.1000 or pbarker@littlebrotherschicago.org.

We also offer a wide range of internships, as well as opportunities for groups of students of any age to learn about the senior generation. Contact Christine Bertrand, Intergenerational Coordinator, at 312.455.1000 or cbertrand@littlebrotherschicago.org.

For more information about LBFE Chicago Chapter contact Heather Dudzinski, Community Outreach Coordinator, at 312.455.1000 or hdudzinski@littlebrotherschicago.org.

To find out how you can refer an elder contact Anna Walters, Program Director, at 312.455.1000 or awalters@littlebrotherschicago.org.

To make a contribution contact Sherri Gorski, Assistant Director of Development, at 312.455.1000 or sgorski@littlebrotherschicago.org.

If you have media-related questions, contact Nancy Marple, Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications, at 312.604.7231 or nmarple@littlebrotherschicago.org.

Visit Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly Chicago Chapter at 355 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, or online at www.littlebrotherschicago.org. Our general phone number is 312.455.1000 and our general email address is general@littlebrotherschicago.org.