
Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network

June 7, 2010

Seniors are safe and sound through the friendship of a VON volunteer

Helping isolated seniors who are at risk is the goal of the VON Friendly Visiting and Security Checks programs. Funded by the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN), through the Aging at Home Strategy, this program features new and expanded services geared towards providing companionship, either in-person or through a friendly phone call, to lonely or isolated seniors, or people with a disability.

The visits, which generally occur in the client's home, include conversation and activities such as hobbies, playing cards, reading, going out for a walk, or a trip to the store. A total of 99 seniors in Chatham-Kent are currently welcoming the visit or call from a VON volunteer.

The Friendly Visiting and Security Checks program has been made available throughout the entire ESC LHIN region and is helping to improve the lives of seniors by decreasing the feelings of isolation and increasing the client's sense of self-worth and belonging to the community at large. For some clients, the Friendly Visitor is their only connection to the outside world.

For more information on the Aging at Home Strategy, visit www.eriestclairhin.on.ca.