



VOLUNTEER UPDATE: IMPORTANT CHANGES TO LBFE CHICAGO ELDER EVENTS & SERVICES

In response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19

March 9, 2020

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly, Chicago Chapter, is making important changes to our events and services to minimize unnecessary close contact and potential viral cross contamination and help keep our volunteers and elders safe in response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak.

We are taking these steps based on the latest advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As part of our ongoing **We Care / We're Careful Campaign**, we'll continue to provide important information and updates through our website, social media, email, and other communication channels.

ACTIVITY AND EVENT CHANGES FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2020

EASTER

The Chicago Chapter has historically celebrated Easter Sunday with nursing home visits and meals delivered to homebound elders. This Easter—April 12, 2020—we will not be conducting nursing home visits; we will not be delivering homemade meals to less-isolated homebound elders; and we will not host a volunteer gathering at LBFE. Instead, the Chicago Chapter will recruit volunteers to help in the following ways:

- Conduct telephone Easter greetings and calls of reassurance to homebound and nursing home elders
- Send personalized and LBFE-branded Easter greeting cards to homebound and nursing home elders
- Deliver homemade meals only to the most isolated and lonely homebound elders. To prevent cross contamination, a volunteer will deliver only one meal, not pick up and deliver multiple meals in one day
- Make every effort to ensure that elders living in nursing homes will be engaged in an appropriate way

FÊTE D'ARMAND MARQUISET

The Fête d'Armand Marquiset is the celebration of our founder and the Chicago Chapter held at three concurrent parties on the North Side, South Side, and at 355 N. Ashland Avenue. This year, we are not holding any Fête celebrations, nor are we recruiting or placing volunteers for the Fête. Instead, the Chicago Chapter will commemorate the birthday of our founder in the following ways:

- Send a personalized greeting card to elders, including the LBFE golden rose pin or similar memento gift
- Post the Young Professionals Advisory Board-created Conversation Starters card deck to the LBFE website
- Recruit volunteers to make telephone calls to elders using the Conversation Starters card deck
- In the words of Armand Marquiset, we will “ignite little fires of love” and other acts of kindness

VISITING VOLUNTEERS

Over the coming months, Little Brothers will encourage visiting volunteers to take these steps:

- Follow Center for Disease Control guidelines and use your best judgment when visiting an elder
- Decide with your elder if a visit is appropriate or feasible
- Maintain telephone contact if you are not visiting your elders



Celebrating
6 Years

- Be sure when you do visit your elder in a nursing home to bring a heightened awareness of your health, the elders' health, and the overall preparedness of the facility
- Call the elder on the day-of the visit to ensure everyone is healthy. **DO NOT** visit the elder if anyone is feeling sick
- Do not feel discouraged if you cannot visit your elder as our top priority is everyone's well-being
- Contact LBFE with issues, concerns, and updates on your elder's health or home/facility

FOOD BAG DELIVERIES

The Chicago Chapter will not be conducting visits with food bags. Instead, volunteers will be asked to:

- Do drop off-only; no visiting and staying with elders.
- Call the elder the day-of the visit to ensure everyone is healthy
- Arrange for a scheduled dropoff at a front door or front desk if the elder is not feeling well
- Help us continue to ensure every elder who needs a food bag receives one
- In order to ensure that we are able to deliver food bags to the elders who need them, we may continue to make adjustments in Food Bag Deliveries moving forward.

HOMEBOUND VISITS

The Chicago Chapter volunteers will only conduct a visit after discussion between the volunteer and the elder to decide if a visit is appropriate or feasible. We will:

- Instruct volunteers to call the elder to confirm if a visit is appropriate or feasible
- Not permit a volunteer who makes a visit to also see another elder in the same day
- Encourage the volunteer to call the elder the day-of the visit to ensure everyone is healthy
- Arrange for a scheduled dropoff at a front door or front desk if the elder is not feeling well

SOCIAL CLUBS: CLUBS, COFFEE, CREATIVE AND MOVIE

The Chicago Chapter will continue to offer Coffee Club, Movie Club, and Creative Café, and access to the Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center. We'll modify how we serve refreshments and food available at these gatherings by replacing buffet-style serving, which can create potential cross-contamination, with a designated food server model.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES, FAMILY REUNIONS, CITYWIDE PARTIES

The Chicago Chapter will continue hosting Birthday Parties, Family Reunions, and Citywide Parties for the foreseeable future. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and make changes or updates, as needed.

HEALTH ADVICE

There are simple actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. It cannot be emphasized enough that good self-care habits are vitally important, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and hot water for a minimum of 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your cough with your sleeve, not your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe
- Don't share food or drinks
- If you get sick, stay home and rest

For more information about Coronavirus/COVID-19, please visit: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

STAY UP-TO-DATE ABOUT LBFE

Learn more and continue to stay informed about LBFE event and activity changes:

- Visit our website: www.littlebrotherschicago.org/WeCare
- Contact us for help and any concerns: Call: 312.644.3100; or email: WeCare@littlebrotherschicago.org

