

# • volunteer

Kaposia invests in the prosperity of people with disabilities and the profitability of our partners.

## Companion Animal Visitor



**Purpose:** Enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities by bringing your gentle pet for a visit. This is an opportunity that doesn't require a great deal of time, but has a big impact! Studies document that holding and caressing an animal provides benefits such as relaxation, lower blood pressure, improved long- and short-term memory, and sensory stimuli. Companion Animals also benefit from the affection they receive, and their owners benefit from truly touching the lives of the people they visit.

**Responsibilities and Duties:** Companion Animal Visitors, first of all, are confident that their pet is socialized and well-trained enough to enjoy and behave in new and strange surroundings. Companion Animal Visitors direct and supervise their pets as they interact, helping individuals get to know and enjoy them. Companion Animal Visitors are primarily responsible for the behavior and treatment of their pet.

Companion Animal Visitors are guided by and defer to Kaposia staff regarding medical, emotional or personal care of individuals.

**Reports to:** Kaposia's Site Coordinator

**Location:** Companion Animal Visitors are welcome at all of Kaposia's locations; Roseville & Golden Valley.

**Time Commitment:** Companion Animal Visitors may arrange visits on a schedule, and for a length of time, that suits their pet. Kaposia's sites are open Monday through Friday from approximately 9:00am to 1:00pm.

**Qualifications:** Dependability, pleasant manner, patience... in both pet and owner!

**Age Requirement:** All ages welcome, but under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Support:** Kaposia staff will be present to help facilitate visits. No special training is needed for this position, although information on vulnerable adult policy, safety & emergency procedures, and data privacy can be made available if desired.

**Security Checks Required:** None. (MN Department of Human Services Background Study would be required only if, at the request of Kaposia staff, the Animal Companion Visitor becomes a long-term, unsupervised volunteer.)

**Dress Code:** Casual

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