



# HSIIP SUCCESS STORY #8

## MRS. WILL\*

### COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROGRAM



Since May 2016, Wesley Urban Ministries has been a contributing member of the Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan (HSIIP), a collaborative initiative to reduce social isolation among seniors in Greater Hamilton.

The Wesley Urban Ministries Community Connector identifies isolated seniors through outreach and engagement in target neighborhoods, and through healthcare touch-points. The Connector assesses needs and opportunities, develops sustainable connections with community services and activities, creates plans to link isolated seniors to resources, and follows up to ensure seniors are anchored and sustaining connections.

Are you socially isolated or do you know someone that is? Call 905-528-5629, ext. 284 to speak with a HSIIP Community Connector.

### MRS. WILL'S STORY\*

*\*names have been changed to protect privacy*

*Mrs. Will (age 81) has a degenerative eye condition and is losing her sight. She is widowed with few close friends or family members to provide support and often felt isolated, lonely and depressed, especially as her vision worsened. Her vision loss also made it challenging for her to navigate her surroundings safely, and left her feeling less confident going out into the community and doing things independently. Although she was already receiving support for household tasks like cooking, cleaning and bathing, Mrs. Will wanted to join local activities and meet people with similar interests, especially those who might understand her daily challenges. She was referred to a Peer Connector through Wesley Urban Ministries, and together they talked about the types of activities that might meet her interests. The Connector went several times with Mrs. Will to different program locations using the DARTS transportation service until she was comfortable with her surroundings and confident attending on her own. The Connector also helped her access the HSIIP Social Participation Fund to off-set her transportation costs. Together, they also participate in monthly trips organized by a local organization, which has helped her build her self-confidence in functioning outside her regular environment. Now Mrs. Will is attending programs on a regular basis independently, and feels more secure and confident in new settings. As she says, "This program makes me feel like living again, I am truly enjoying the company of friends at my program."*



Support, every step of the way

**gilbrea centre** for Studies in Aging

\*Materials co-developed by Wesley Urban Ministries & Gilbrea Centre, McMaster University

Learn more about the Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan:

**WEBSITE:**

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