



HSIIP SUCCESS STORY #9

MRS. DOYLE*

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. DOYLE'S STORY*

**names have been changed to protect privacy*

After her husband passed away, Mrs. Doyle had little support to deal with her grief and other challenging emotions. The end of his life had come suddenly after a short illness, and Mrs. Doyle was left feeling resentful and angry, not prepared to manage this sudden loss. His death was followed by a health crisis of her own, and Mrs. Doyle was referred to the HSIIP Connector program after being admitted to hospital. Her Community Connector at Wesley Urban Ministries provided offers of support and information about different resources that might appeal to her, but at first she did not feel ready to attend any recreational or social activities. Over time – with encouragement from her Connector – Mrs. Doyle started to ask for more details and then attend a few events, such as a book club and outings with the local seniors group. She also expressed an interest in counselling services, and the Connector referred her to counselling available at a local Community Health Centre. The Connector program was able to assist with transportation costs by using the HSIIP Social Participation Fund to purchase some taxi scripts. Now, Mrs. Doyle is much more engaged. At her request, the Connector provides a copy of the Multicultural Seniors Outreach program calendar each month and she participates in programs as much as her times allows. Mrs. Doyle expressed her gratitude to the program in a letter, calling her Connector “a gem of a friend and help mate” who has helped her find “relief from loneliness and information about why and where to get more help as required.” Recently, Mrs. Doyle referred a friend to the Connector program, in the hopes that they can benefit from this type of support as she has.



gilbrea centre for Studies in Aging

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

Learn more about the Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan:

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