

Senior citizens are awesome and valued members of our community! They are either beloved members of the Church or are people on the edge of eternity in desperate need of the Good News. Valued Voices is a ministry of Renovation Church where volunteers build relationships with (and even community around!) older folks at Edgewood Senior Living Center in Blaine, with the goal of simply enjoying their company, learning with them, serving them as valued friends, encouraging those who are believers, and sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who are unbelievers.

Volunteers can sign up through the Renovation Church website or app. Those that sign up will get an email from Molly Vesperman, our Valued Voices Ministry Leader, with application paperwork to complete and turn in, and initial training material for volunteers to review. From there, each volunteer's experience will be unique to their interests and availability. Edgewood has organized activities for the residents and volunteers from 9-11am and 1-4pm. Volunteers are welcome anytime throughout the day to help with activities, have 1-on-1 conversations, or even play board games or cards with residents. While we ask that Valued Voices volunteers serve at least once a month, you're welcome to visit as often as your schedule allows. Serving on a regular basis helps volunteers build relationships more easily than serving sporadically.

The residents also have a variety of personalities and interests, so if you'd like to play cards in silence, have a lively conversation, or put on a concert with your guitar for the whole group, that's great! And of course, the residents love kids, so as long as they are old enough to be helpful and well behaved, kids are more than welcome to come along and learn to value these treasured people.

While the time slots for volunteering are quite flexible, it does help facility staff to know when they can expect volunteers during the week. Molly Vesperman will email the schedule of activities organized by Edgewood each week. You can choose to volunteer to help out with the pre-scheduled activities, or you can volunteer on your own time in other ways that best suit the ways God has gifted and called you to serve our friends at Edgewood.

When you arrive to volunteer, sign in at the front desk before you head into the building to find people to connect with. If you're meeting someone new, just politely ask if you can sit with them and chat or do an activity together such as playing cards. Remember, this ministry is about people, not systems, so be flexible, relaxed, and get to know some very valuable people.