

## **Project title: Enhancing Awareness, Volunteer Engagement, and QVS-ARTZ Fellowship**

### **Summary Proposal for Fall Application, Friends Foundation for Aging:**

Through a new partnership with Quaker Voluntary Service and the addition of a QVS/ARTZ Fellow to our staff for 2025-2026, we look forward to building vital infrastructure for several of the strategic goals in our new three-year plan just approved by the ARTZ Philadelphia Board. One of those goals is to systematically raise awareness of the services we provide to community members living with dementia and their care partners. Another is to rebuild the programs in day centers and residential care communities that were suspended during the COVID pandemic. A third, related to the other goals, is that of rebuilding our volunteer program, whose infrastructure has suffered due to our loss in early 2023 of a full-time staff position dedicated to Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordination. Volunteers help to promote and make possible much of the programmatic and other services that we provide to our constituents (especially in residential care communities). The QVS Fellow who has been identified as a match for ARTZ (our 1st choice and her 1st choice), has extensive experience in volunteer work and management and in raising awareness of non-profit organizations' services and missions through diverse means.

A 2024 award from Maude's Awards (including a resource book distributed nationally to aging services providers, highlighting our work and that of other awardees) has brought more attention to our organization. In this year's [Philadelphia Inquirer Philly Favorites](#) contest, we received "gold" for coming in first in the category of [Alternative Therapies](#), further enhancing our reputation and regional familiarity with our mission. Due to this visibility as a local groundbreaker, we have had more volunteer applications than ever before, upwards of 60 people in just the past year. This passionate group of interested volunteers are diverse in background, experience, and age. With more community members who have learned about us and would benefit from our services, at our current capacity, we are limited in our ability to welcome new participants. Likewise, we have been unable to keep up with the demands of processing the increased volume of volunteer applications and to stabilize volunteer retention over time. In this context, the QVS Fellow will research and develop sustainable processes for our team and ensure we can bolster and – ultimately – expand our programs. It is our hope that this year-long fellowship will demonstrate how the addition of a part-time volunteer manager can enhance our sustainability and effectiveness as a service organization supporting people with dementia and their families.