

Become a Walking Partner



Walking Partners are volunteers who build consistent, caring relationships with individuals served by Partners in Hope. It's a simple idea with meaningful impact: one person choosing to show up for another through friendship, encouragement, and connection.

Walking Partners are matched with someone of the same gender and make an initial commitment of at least six months. That time allows trust and genuine friendship to grow. Many Walking Partner relationships continue well beyond those first six months.

You don't need to have all the answers. You aren't there to fix someone's problems or tell them what to do.

You're there to listen, encourage, and be present. *Because no one should navigate life alone.*

What Will I Be Asked to Do?

As a Walking Partner, you'll build a relationship through regular conversation and time together.

We ask you to:

- **Connect each week.** Check in by phone or text.
- **Spend time together in person at least once a month.** That might mean visiting at home, meeting for coffee, taking a walk, or spending time together in the community.
- **Join Partners in Hope Fellowship Gatherings when possible.** These gatherings offer another way to build relationships and connect with the larger Partners in Hope community.
- **Listen and encourage.** Your role is friendship and support—not counseling, coaching, case management, or solving problems.
- **Stay connected with Partners in Hope.** Check in with PIH staff whenever possible and participate in our quarterly equipping meetings.
- **Commit to at least six months.** Relationships take time. Six months provides the consistency needed for trust and connection to grow.

Who Makes a Good Walking Partner?

You don't need to be a counselor, social worker, Bible scholar, or expert in someone else's circumstances. You might make a wonderful Walking Partner if you:

- Have a growing relationship with Christ and a heart for others.
- Believe in the Mission and Core Values of Partners in Hope (*You'll find our Core Values at pihtx.org/about-partners-in-hope.*)
- Enjoy getting to know people whose backgrounds or experiences may be different from your own.
- Listen well and communicate with care.
- Respect the dignity and privacy of others.
- Are willing to learn.
- Can consistently show up.

At its heart, Walking Partnership isn't about having the right answers. It's about being willing to build a real relationship. You don't have to change someone's life. You simply have to be willing to share a little of the road.



How Do I Become a Walking Partner?

We'll prepare you before you begin and support you along the way.

1. Start with a conversation.

Meet with a Partners in Hope Community Connections Manager or Ministry Director. We'll talk about the Walking Partner role, answer your questions, and help you determine whether it's a good fit.

2. Complete your equipping and preparation.

As you become a Walking Partner, you'll complete:

- Walking With Others Training — in person with Partners in Hope (required)
- Boundaries and Potential Pitfalls Training — online through our partner, True Charity
- Trauma-Informed Care Training — in-person with Partners in Hope
- Background Check — arranged and paid for by Partners in Hope
- Quarterly Walking Partners Equipping - ongoing in-person support with Partners in Hope

You'll also need reliable transportation and current auto insurance.

3. Begin making connections.

Partners in Hope will help introduce you to people in our community and create opportunities for you to get to know each other. Fellowship Dinners, Bible studies, coffee gatherings, and other activities provide relaxed places to connect and spend time together.

Relationships can't be forced, so we allow space for connection to develop naturally. When you and someone else both feel comfortable moving forward as Walking Partners, PIH will help you take that next step.

4. Begin walking together.

Once you've connected with someone and mutually decided to become Walking Partners, your six-month commitment begins.

And Partners in Hope doesn't disappear. We'll check in, answer questions, offer support, and provide opportunities for ongoing connection and equipping as your relationship grows.

What about Confidentiality?

Trust matters.

Walking Partners are often invited into personal stories and tender parts of someone's life. What is shared with you should be treated with care, dignity, and respect.

There may be times when you need to share something with Partners in Hope staff, particularly if you have concerns about someone's safety or well-being. Your training will help you understand when information should remain confidential and when you need to reach out for support.

You are never expected to navigate a difficult situation alone.

Questions? Email:

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