

Walking Partner Equipping

August 27, 2026

Why is this volunteer role needed?

Isolation:

- Impacts the whole person
- Continues to rise
- Few are answering the call to go out to people
- You are on the front line
-

What Is a Walking Partner's role (come along-side, walk with in life, be a friend)

You are entering a person's life who will likely be facing many challenges. Resist the urge to fix things for them. The power of being with them is what is life-changing!

- Listen
- Pray for them
- Share scripture
- Invite them to church
- Empathize
- Encourage
- Involve Others and duplicate yourself as able
- Equip when possible
- Model and emphasize the value of having God and others in your life
- Model character: Respect, politeness, gratitude, integrity
- Offer rides to PIH fellowship dinners and coffees
- Visit in their home or at a coffee shop
- Call and check on them from time to time
- Send a card if they're ill or lonely

Other ways you can be of support:

1. What is NOT a Walking Partner's role

- Solving problems, having all the answers
- Offering/Giving financial support
- Liking all their decisions and actions

2. Best Practices

- Continue training and learning
- Stay supported
- Communicate with PIH
- Keep confidence – be open and honest
- Don't offer your personal money
- Pray

Safe Gathering Tips:

1. Stay in touch. Let staff know when you visit a residence.
2. Keep valuables out of sight. Carry as little as possible. It's best to put valuables in the trunk before you leave on a visit so as not to advertise what you have and where.
3. Know exactly where you're going. If you've never been in a certain location, drive around the area first.
4. If this is an initial visit or there is a previous concern meet in public or with someone.
5. When possible, take your own drinks to a home visit, limit food received by clients (case by case).
6. Park where you know you can get out.
7. Dress neatly and functionally.
8. Set expectations with clients. Discuss any reporting requirements and program expectations during your initial contact with your client(s).
9. Establish parameters. Make it clear that you have a schedule to keep and are expected elsewhere later. This puts in some parameters ahead of time in case you must leave for any reason.
10. Be aware of others. Be mindful of others in the apartment/house for confidentiality and safety reasons.
11. Ask about pets. It's best to call ahead of time to see if there are any pets. Do you have allergies? Is the person's pet friendly or not?
12. Be aware of signs of intoxication. If someone is impaired such as with drugs or alcohol, leave. You can always reschedule.
13. Try to keep a clear path to the door. Know your means of exit. You may leave from a way different than the way you came in.
14. Guard your privacy. Be conscious of personal information shared.
15. Report any incident or concerns to PIH and any other appropriate person.
16. Do not transport a client without discussing with PIH first.
17. If there are safety concerns with a household, be sure to inform all staff and make appropriate decisions regarding volunteer activity with the household
18. Keep a simple log of visits

These tips are safety precautions. Please use best judgement when interacting with client families.