



## Friendly Neighbor General Description & Application

The Participation House Project Durham Region is launching the "Friendly Neighbor" Housing initiative, an exciting new initiative designed to foster social engagement and full citizenship for individuals with developmental disabilities. This innovative living arrangement will provide an opportunity for community members without disabilities to share housing environments with people from The Participation House Project Durham Region who have developmental disabilities. The goal is to create an environment where all people can live, learn, and grow together.

The Participation House Project Durham Region is a non-profit organization that supports people with developmental disabilities, helping them to live within the community and become active, contributing members. The Friendly Neighbor role is ideal for someone who has an interest in helping people and who is open to supporting people who have developmental disabilities, by providing companionship and support as a "Friendly Neighbor." This shared living arrangement is intended to enrich the lives of everyone involved by fostering meaningful experiences and promoting learning and personal growth.

Those with developmental disabilities, their family (when applicable), and The Participation House Project Durham Region will collaborate to offer guidance and support throughout the shared living experience. There are many potential benefits to this arrangement, including opportunities to enhance social connections, increase community involvement, experience greater autonomy, and form new relationships. Ultimately, the initiative aims to create a network of natural friendships and support among all participants.

The successful candidate will be offered a two-bedroom apartment within a four-plex, where the three other units will be occupied by those supported by The Participation House Project Durham Region. In appreciation of the Friendly Neighbor's role, The Participation House Project Durham Region will cover the cost of the apartment's utilities. The only monthly cost to the Friendly Neighbor will be the rental fee for the apartment and any personal preferences for add-ons. To maintain this arrangement, the candidate must meet the requirements specified in the application package and the support agreement.

Friendly Neighbors will participate in shared experiences, which may include social interactions and helping with problem-solving when PH staff is not present.

# Friendly Neighbor Application Requirements & Process

Candidates applying for the “Friendly Neighbor” initiative must provide the following items as part of their application package:

1. A completed application form, provided in this document.
2. Two letters of reference which can be professional **or** personal. In addition to these reference letters, contact information for both references must be provided on the Application Form.
3. A clear and valid Vulnerable Sector Police Check no older than **one year** must be presented to be considered for an interview. It is recommended that interested applicants complete this step immediately as checks can take several weeks to process. A letter will be provided by The Participation House Project Durham Region for this purpose.
4. A 500-word personal statement outlining their desire to be considered a Friendly Neighbor, why they would be a good candidate, and what they hope to gain from the experience of this shared living situation.
5. An updated resume and cover letter.
6. Proof of First Aid/CPR certification/ODSP or other financial documentation to ensure that rent will be covered.

Questions and completed application packages can be forwarded to:

Sharri-Ann Edmunds – Director of Services  
The Participation House Project Durham Region  
1 Jim Flaherty St. Whitby, ON L1N 0J2  
Email: [sannedmunds@phdurham.com](mailto:sannedmunds@phdurham.com)  
Phone: 905 579-5267.



## Friendly Neighbor Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address* *Apt./Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_ *City* *Province* *Postal Code*

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address* *Apt./Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_ *City* *Province* *Postal Code*

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### REFERENCES

We require **2 letters of reference** which must include contact information for the individual providing the reference. Preferred are professional references however, we will accept personal as well.

#### REFERENCE #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First*

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**REFERENCE #2**

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Last*

\_\_\_\_\_ *First*

Relationship:

Phone:

(     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Application Contents Checklist**

- One-page personal statement
- Two letters of reference
- Updated resume & cover letter
- Vulnerable Sector Police Check
- Completion of application