

THE VIRGINIA M. SCHROEDER RESPITE CARE FUND

**Grants recommended by the
InterFaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut
One Canterbury Green, Box #7
Stamford, CT 06901**

**From the Virginia M. Schroeder Fund for Respite Care
at the Fairfield County Community Foundation**

I. History of the Fund

Virginia M. Schroeder, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Stamford and a friend of the InterFaith Council, recognized the need for rest for those providing care to a disabled family member or friend. This all-consuming work often leaves the caregiver exhausted, depressed, and isolated. Beginning in 2005 and because of the extreme generosity of Ms. Schroeder through a bequest to the InterFaith Council, the *Virginia M. Schroeder Respite Care Fund* will distribute funds over ten years to provide caregivers a respite from the demands of supporting a loved one.

II. Using Respite Care Funds

You do not need to be leaving town for a week to use respite funds. In fact, you may wish to see if your friend or loved one for whom you care could manage if you had to leave. You could do this by choosing a provider to care for your loved one for a 12-hour period or a 24-hour period and ask for respite funds which would cover this trial, plus funds to provide you with some time away if the trial works. Since the funds are not paid until after the provider has given the service, you do not have to use them immediately. Please remember, however, that only one grant is given for an individual or family every 52 weeks.

You could use funds to send your friend or loved one to day care one day a week so that you might have extra time to shop or do something for yourself.

Funds can also be used to help you send a child who needs constant care to a camp that serves children with special needs or to have someone come into your home a few hours each week to care for a child or an adult who needs constant supervision.

II. Who Qualifies for a Grant

If you live in Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, New Canaan or Norwalk and could not otherwise afford time away from the caregiving you provide a loved one, friend, or neighbor, you can receive financial support to involve a licensed health care provider to care for a loved one in your absence. You need not provide 24-hour services, but if the person could not manage without your help during the daytime or the nighttime, you may be eligible for a grant from the Virginia M. Schroeder Respite Care Fund. No one will be eligible for more than one grant during a 12-month period.

III. How the Fund Works

1. Complete the application form included in the brochure or on this website. Choosing a care provider is part of the application process.
2. If you are involved in a religious community, your pastor, priest, rabbi, imam or other religious officer can sign this application. However, they or the congregation should be a member of the Council to sign more than the first application. If you are not involved in a religious community, there is a list of clergy following who would be pleased to speak with you and sign the application. Please call the office of the InterFaith Council at 348-2800 if you are having trouble finding a clergy or need help in this regard.
3. Send the application to the address on the form, or fax it to 203-316-8614.

4. The Virginia Schroeder Respite Care Committee will review the application with the help of the clergy contact. If necessary, a visit will be made to the person receiving care by a nurse or social worker.

5. The application will be acted upon as quickly as possible, and both you and the health care provider whom you have chosen will be notified by a representative of the Virginia M. Schroeder Respite Care Committee.

6. A contract will be sent to the health care provider to assure that the service will be available for your loved one or friend. A check will be distributed to the health care provider upon receipt of an invoice from them.

7. The provider will report to the Virginia Schroeder Fund at the end of the respite care.

IV. How to Find a Licensed Care Provider

There are different types of providers, each of which is listed on this website.

- There are places where the person for whom you provide care can stay for a time and receive 24-hour nursing or attendant care. If the client is particularly ill, or needs special care, you might want to consider having him/her stay at a nursing home, an assisted living facility or a residential care home. At a nursing home, there will be both nurses and nursing assistants on location at all times. At either of the other facilities, there will be nursing assistants on location for 24 hours, but not necessarily nurses.
- If the person wants to stay at home, but requires an injection or some other medical service, which you have been providing every day, you will need to select an agency from the "Home Health Care Providers (Medical)" because those providers have a nurse to administer injections.
- If the person needs someone to help with remembering to take medications, getting dressed, cooking, transportation to day care or help with light housekeeping, but not any specific medical help, you can use a "Home Health Care Provider (Non-Medical.)"

Following is an application form, a list of licensed providers in this area, and a list of clergy who will help you with this application if you have no clergy contact. If you are already using a licensed provider for some aspects of the client's care, you may certainly use your current provider for respite care if they are qualified and available.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE APPLICATION PROCESS WILL USUALLY TAKE MORE THAN ONE WEEK; IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT REBECCA SALA, CHAIR OF THE FUND COMMITTEE AT (203)219- 4341 OR ramessala@yahoo.com.