Ram Subbiah, North Hills Community Outreach, Pittsburgh, PA

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**279 words**

Ram has been a transport volunteer for two years. He often drives the North Hill Community Outreach shuttle or his own car. “I find these people are lonely and are needing help. I take them to their doctor’s appointment, the grocery store, or whatever else they need.”

Ram works remotely from home as a data analyst for Bank of America. “My company encourages us to volunteer two hours a week during our work hours.”

He first learned about volunteer caregiving from a neighbor on the Nextdoor: Neighborhood Network app who was looking for help with his audio system. He was a volunteer at North Hills Community Outreach and told him how they offer seniors free rides and other services. “I had been looking for a volunteer opportunity.” On the weekends, he helps pack food at his Hindu temple cafeteria.

“My wife and I are now empty nesters, and watching TV wasn’t fulfilling.” He called North Hills Community Outreach and began the background checks to become a driver. “I wanted to help older and disabled people.” He drives the agency shuttle once a month—which is about an hour's drive from his home—the transport often takes four hours. When he uses his own car, he picks up people within 20 minutes from his home and it’s a 2-hour transport.

“I picked up an African American gentleman in his 70s who said: ‘You’re the first colored person to volunteer.’ This has motivated me to continue volunteering.”

“Interacting with these seniors gives me a sense of fulfillment in my life—more than from buying material things that only offer fleeting happiness. I feel a sense of gratitude that they’re helping me as much as I am helping them.”

**Social Media #1**: I find these people are lonely and are needing help.

**Social Media #2**: I feel a sense of gratitude that they’re helping me as much as I am helping them.