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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **VOLUNTEER DRIVE LAUNCHED BY WINCHESTER CHARITY TO SUPPORT NEW WELLBEING INITIATIVE FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

Local charity St John's Winchester has launched a volunteer recruitment drive to support a new community-based wellbeing service, St John's Hand in Hand. It will be launched as a pilot in the new year.

St John's Hand in Hand will support older people in the Winchester community to improve their quality of life and wellbeing by providing a helping hand through personal support and practical help. There are three main elements to this service: befriending, signposting services and helping older people to live well and independently as long as possible.

With the help of the Winchester community, St John's have created a database of local events, activities and services for the benefit of older people. Their dedicated Hand in Hand team will use the database in collaboration with local people and organisations, pointing people in the right direction towards activities that they can benefit from and enjoy.

The service will be driven by volunteers working alongside and being supported by full-time staff. Volunteers will befriend, spend active time with members of the Hand in Hand scheme, signpost to services, organise 'get togethers' of scheme members and support friendship clubs.

To find out more, call St John's Winchester on 01962 854226, email [office@stjohnswinchester.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohnswinchester.co.uk), visit [www.stjohnswinchester.co.uk](http://www.stjohnswinchester.co.uk) or pop in for a chat.

St John's Chair Martin Lowry said: "Our Hand in Hand initiative is a natural progression of our core work, building on the Charity's caring principles and values. It's all about helping older people living in the local community to retain choice and control of their lives, and continue to live independently for as long as possible. It complements our almshouse and care home services and adds to our offering of care and friendship."

Clive Cook, St John's Chief Executive, added: "We are thrilled to be launching this pilot service, and we hope that local people of all ages will get on board to help us make it a huge success. We are looking for people who want to become part of a caring community. It is an early stage, so our volunteers will have an opportunity to help shape the service. If you would like to become a key part of the St John's community then please get in touch."

Ends

For more information please contact Nicki Smith at [pr@nicolasmithcomms.co.uk](mailto:pr@nicolasmithcomms.co.uk) or 07796 175695

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