

# R&RA Press Release



For Quality of Life of  
Older People in Care

The Relatives & Residents Association (R&RA) publishes report on the neglected opportunities for volunteers in care homes for older people.

## **Volunteers in Care Homes for Older People: An underused opportunity?**

by Rose Heatley

Volunteering is widely commended as a form of active citizenship, bringing benefit, for example, to disadvantaged communities, aged and sick people and - in the case of hospices - people at the end of life. Yet in many care homes for older people volunteers are rarely seen. Why should this be so? What is it about care homes that may deter potential volunteers?

Rose Heatley's study explores some of these issues, looking at the pattern of volunteering in care homes, identifying some of the reasons for its absence in many homes and investigating what benefits volunteers might bring to the daily life of residents. In an area where little is known and even less has been written about the role of volunteering, the report makes an important contribution to extending our knowledge.

*'Rose Heatley's report usefully reviews current attitudes to volunteering in homes and explores the potential contribution that volunteers could make. Care home managers, volunteer bureaux and activity organisers in homes would do well to read it.'* Dr Gillian Dalley, Chief Executive, The Relatives & Residents Association

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### Information for editors

1. The report *Volunteers in Care Homes* is available, price £7.50 (£5 to R&RA members), direct from: The R&RA, 24 The Ivories, 6-18 Northampton Street, London N1 2HY. Order forms are also available via the website: [www.relres.org](http://www.relres.org)
  2. Contact the R&RA for membership details, making donations and information about its work by emailing: [info@relres.org](mailto:info@relres.org)
  3. The R&RA exists to promote the wellbeing of older people in residential care and their relatives. It does this through the provision of advice, information and support through its telephone advice line, campaigning for higher standards in care homes and project work to improve the quality of care received.
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