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Volunteers Wanted!

A Study of Befriending Individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

Are you interested in befriending a person with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)? If so, we have an exciting new Befriending program!

The *Autism Befriending Program (ABP)* aims to help reduce the social isolation of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

You will be matched with a *befriende*, that is, a person who has a diagnosis of ASD. As a *befriender*, you will spend 2-3 hours of your time each week or fortnight with your befriende for an initial period of 1 year.

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will need to complete an application form and eligible individuals will then attend an interview. Because befriending involves working with vulnerable people, you will also need a criminal background check.

Successful applicants will attend an orientation session and there will be the opportunity to attend monthly group meetings with other volunteer befrienders and the study staff, which will be held in the evenings.

To participate you must be over 18 years of age, speak English fluently, have completed high school education, and live in the greater Vancouver area (Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Burnaby, Delta, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, New Westminister, Coquitlam, Port Moody and White Rock).

For more information and to obtain the application form, please contact Monica Parelkar at monica.parelkar@ubc.ca or (604) 875-2000 x 6428.