

What is Billys Care? Supporting Our Community!

Mutual support (in good times and bad) is one of the founding principles of the Billys. Billys Care is a new tool to make it easier for Billys in need of assistance to connect with Billys willing to lend a hand.

Billys Care is simply a list of volunteers available to all Billys. It includes 2-3 contact or point persons for each region: 1) Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt Counties, 2) North Bay Counties, 3) East Bay Counties, 4) San Francisco and Peninsula, 5) Sacramento Valley and 6) Outlying Billys (These Billys can give and receive support and advice thru phone, email and mail, if not in person.)

The ways volunteers might lend a hand could include anything from sending a get well card; emotional support; doing errands; caring for home, garden, pets; finding social services, emergency moving, minor medical assistance, providing rides. More "help" could be health related or anything else a Billy asks for and another Billy agrees to provide.

Billys in need of assistance can contact volunteers directly or ask a regional contact person to make the contacts. Contact persons *might* serve many functions, or just one function: 1) contacting volunteers to help a Billy in need, 2) updating contact info in their region, 3) keeping the Billys informed on the condition of a seriously ill Billy, 4) providing info on local assistance programs, 5) helping organize 24 hour watch for the seriously ill, etc.

Billys requesting help need to be as clear as possible about their needs, understanding that volunteers may or may not be able to meet all requests. Billys Care is not meant to replace professional services, medical or otherwise. Billy volunteers need to be clear about the level of assistance they are willing to give, and able to give.

Privacy: Some may want to share news of their crisis with the whole Billy Community, others may want to inform only those assisting them. We will respect those wishes, except in cases of extreme emergency. The Billys Volunteer list is a sharing of contact info ONLY within the Billy Community. **Organization:** Billys Care volunteers are acting independently of the Billy Foundation and it's Board. Billys Care has no bylaws or officers and will not incur expenses or make financial gain as a group.

Fellow Billys, in the tradition of church and synagogue ladies, chicken soup brigades, Boy Scouts and the Billy community itself, please join the Billys Care volunteers. The more the merrier and the more our team will be successful! Please contact Joe Balestreri at amato@sonic.net 707-331-0191. **Include your name, phone no., email, ways you might help, city and county of residence and indicate your willingness to be a point person or not.**

*NOTE: Billys Care is open to members of the Billys only. We freely share this explanation of Billys Care with other organizations and individuals. The above explanation is provided as an example to help others form their own assistance programs. No permission is given to use the names Billys, Billy Club or Billys Care or imply any legal connection to the Billys.