

**IS BEING  
A BLOCK PARENT®  
RIGHT FOR YOU?**

**WHAT DOES A BLOCK PARENT® DO?**

A Block Parent offers assistance to children and other persons by telephoning the appropriate emergency service (police, fire, ambulance) or family member.

A Block Parent may be called upon to offer their home as a place of safety when someone is in a dangerous or threatening situation.

**WHAT IS A BLOCK PARENT® NOT EXPECTED TO DO?**

A Block Parent is not expected to provide food, drink, toilet facilities, transportation or medication; administer first aid; or admit anyone into their home if they feel uneasy about the situation.

Block Parents have no special legal status or authority other than that of ordinary citizens. They are there to help others in case of emergency.



FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMUNITY TO TURN  
TO FOR IMMEDIATE  
ASSISTANCE

WE NEED YOU!

The Waterloo Regional Block Parent® Program is incorporated as a non-profit, charitable organization and relies solely on the generosity of sponsors, grants and private donations.



To find out more about the Waterloo Regional Block Parent® Program please visit our website, or contact us at:

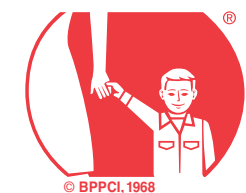
**blockparents.ca**  
EMAIL [contact@blockparents.ca](mailto:contact@blockparents.ca)  
TELEPHONE 519-745-8410

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**WATERLOO  
REGIONAL  
BLOCK PARENT®  
PROGRAM**

**BUILDING SAFER  
COMMUNITIES,  
ONE BLOCK AT A TIME.**



**blockparents.ca**

THE WATERLOO REGIONAL BLOCK PARENT® PROGRAM IS GROWING! YOUR INTEREST IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM IS THE FIRST STEP TO CREATING A SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD IN YOUR COMMUNITY. WHETHER YOU ARE HOME FULL TIME OR CAN ONLY DISPLAY YOUR SIGN A FEW HOURS EACH WEEK, YOU ARE VALUABLE TO THIS PROGRAM.

**WE NEED YOU!**

**THE WATERLOO REGIONAL  
BLOCK PARENT® PROGRAM  
– A BRIEF HISTORY**

Since 1977, the WATERLOO REGIONAL BLOCK PARENT® PROGRAM has served the people of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and the surrounding rural communities by creating a network of safe houses for people of all ages to go to for immediate assistance.

The familiar red and white Block Parent sign is a symbol that indicates a caring adult is available to help should the need arise. The sign was first seen in windows in London, Ontario in 1968, where the Program began.



THE MISSION OF THE WATERLOO REGIONAL BLOCK PARENT® PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE A NETWORK OF SAFE HOMES AND BUSINESSES

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHO MAY BECOME A BLOCK PARENT®?

Any responsible citizen over the age of 18 years who has been screened by the Waterloo Regional Block Parent® Program including Volunteer Canada's Safe Steps Screening Program and who has obtained a Police Vulnerable Sector Check can become a Block Parent.

### IS THERE MUCH WORK INVOLVED?

No! It will not alter your lifestyle or make demands on your time. When you are at home and able to answer the door to someone requiring assistance, simply display the sign in a window visible from the street. If a child is bothered by a stranger or a bully, is sick, hurt or lost, they know the sign means a "SAFE ADULT" is there to offer help.

### HOW OFTEN ARE BLOCK PARENT® HOMES USED?

Some homes may never be used while others will be used several times. Each year, over 1,000 Block Parents from coast to coast are called upon to help. Remember that the Block Parent sign acts as a deterrent to most troublemakers; hence, the more signs on display, the safer your community will be.

### I'M NEVER HOME, HOW CAN I HELP?

This is the ideal volunteer position for a busy person like yourself. You can provide a valuable service to your community without having to make a special effort to do so. Simply put your sign in the window when you are available.

## YOU ARE VALUABLE TO THIS PROGRAM!



### DO I HAVE TO LET STRANGERS INTO MY HOME?

No! You do not have to let anyone into your home if you think they may threaten you or your family. Information can be exchanged through a locked door if necessary and the appropriate telephone call made.

### WHEN I TAKE MY SIGN DOWN DOES THAT INDICATE THAT WE ARE NOT AT HOME?

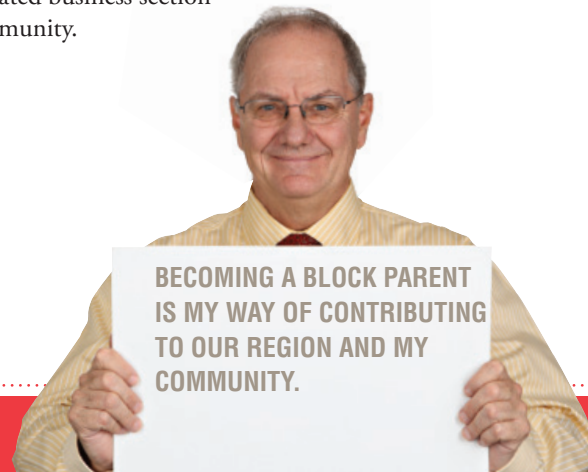
Definitely not! A sign removed from view does not necessarily mean that no one is home. There are many times when the volunteer is home, but does not want to be "on duty," so the sign does not have to be on display.

### WHAT IS THE SENIOR BLOCK PARENT® PROGRAM?

While the Block Parent Program was primarily designed for children, our network of safe homes can also be used by seniors who need assistance. If you feel ill, vulnerable, distressed or lost while in your community, simply look for a house displaying the red and white Block Parent sign.

### WHAT IS THE BUSINESS BLOCK PARENT® PROGRAM?

The purpose of this very worthwhile program is to provide more approved "safe locations" in a concentrated business section of a community.



## HOW TO BECOME A BLOCK PARENT®

### 1 COMPLETE A POLICE VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK by following these steps:

- Go to your nearest Police Station to request a "Police Vulnerable Sector Check". (PVSC).
- All occupants of your home, 12 years and older, must present two pieces of identification to the police (driver's license, birth certificate, passport, student card, proof of residence etc.).
- The police will call you when the check is completed and each person or designated person must return to sign and pick up their Police Vulnerable Sector Check.

### 2 SEND THE PVSC'S AND YOUR COMPLETED BLOCK PARENT® APPLICATION FORM

to the Waterloo Regional Block Parent® office:  
See Website for details

### 3 A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PROGRAM WILL CONTACT YOU TO SET UP A CONVENIENT TIME FOR YOUR ORIENTATION.

Upon approval of your application by the Waterloo Regional Block Parent® Program, we will conduct a brief, 20-minute orientation in your home. Our representative will ensure the suitability of the location, the visibility of the sign and will ensure there is a clear understanding of the procedures and responsibilities of being a Block Parent.

YOU CAN FIND AN ON-LINE APPLICATION FORM ON OUR WEBSITE:

[blockparents.ca](http://blockparents.ca)

**RE-CERTIFICATION:** YOU WILL NEED TO UPDATE YOUR BLOCK PARENT APPLICATION AND REQUEST A POLICE VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK EVERY TWO YEARS TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM.

**INCIDENT REPORTS:** EVERY TIME YOUR HOME IS USED AS A BLOCK PARENT HOME, NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL, THE INCIDENT MUST BE REPORTED TO THE PROGRAM BY FILLING OUT AN INCIDENT REPORT AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AND IN YOUR ORIENTATION PACKAGE. THESE STATISTICS ARE REPORTED TO THE BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM OF CANADA INC.

