

## Lesbian Helpers

*Melissa Levin*

# WHO CAN BECOME A LESBIAN HELPER?

**Any self-identified lesbian who has a sincere wish to do good deeds.**

- ▼ *"Someone left their purse in the phone booth. I ran after her to return it."*
- ▼ *"Some guy asked me to give his car a jump and I just happened to have my jumper cables with me!"*
- ▼ *"I offered to take a family's photograph so they could all be standing together in front of the Art Institute."*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

*—Margaret Mead, anthropologist*

# MISSION STATEMENT



*Our Founder, Melissa Levin*

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The Lesbian Helper Project was founded by Melissa Levin in 1996, after she moved from San Francisco to Chicago. She began the Project as a way to increase lesbian visibility in the area, and to promote a safer environment for all lesbians. Levin has said *"If by helping one person I can begin to chip away at false perceptions of myself and other lesbians, then what I do matters."* For lesbians who are helpers, the Project can offer not only a community of women who want to make a difference, but a feeling of empowerment as they fight against oppression.

*Lesbian Helpers nurture a safe world in which lesbians—and all people—can live without fear of discrimination and violence. We provide a service to the general public by offering assistance to individuals and through our advocacy efforts.*

## HOW IT WORKS

Whenever a Lesbian Helper is out and about, and she cheerfully and sincerely comes to the rescue, even in the simplest way, she has done her job and done it well. But there is another important component—giving a card.



YOU HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY A  
LESBIAN HELPER

Think Globally

Act Locally

After a card has been handed to the recipient, a Lesbian Helper can simply walk away. If the recipient would like to learn more about the project, the individual helper can explain if she has the time and inclination. She should always be aware that not everyone will welcome the card—there can be personal risks involved. In no case should a Lesbian Helper give out a card if she feels at all threatened or nervous that revealing her identity will bring her harm! While this project is important, there is never a need for suffering for the sake of our message.