



## Villages: Transforming Aging with Choices and Connections

### About the Village Model

Villages are intentional caring communities — a cost-effective, life care model for a rapidly aging society. They enable older adults to remain safe and independent in their homes with purpose, choices and relationships that contribute to healthier, happier lives.

Villages are grassroots, community-based organizations powered by volunteers. They operate on a philosophy of self-help and peer-to-peer reciprocity. Village volunteers, many of whom are also members, provide a variety of support services, including transportation, light home maintenance, tech support and friendly visits. They coordinate engaging social, educational and cultural activities that reduce isolation and promote personal connections through shared interests and experiences. Villages generate opportunities and choices for older adults to remain active and age successfully.

*Volunteering in my Village gives me greater appreciation for the challenges faced by older community members.*

– Village Volunteer

*When my husband was sick and I had a bad shoulder, I called the Village and within two hours we had a delivery of important medication in addition to heavy and necessary bottles of Gatorade and groceries. It is a great comfort to know that whatever the issue, we are not alone.*

– Alma B., Village member

### Village Features

Villages reflect their communities and respond to the needs of their members. While their business models may vary, all Villages share the following features:

- ▶ Grassroots initiatives that are volunteer-based, member-driven and self-governing
- ▶ Provide social activities that minimize social isolation
- ▶ Create caring communities with meaningful reciprocity between those offering and those receiving assistance
- ▶ Build interpersonal connections, trust and social support
- ▶ Foster communities of mutual assistance that offer members varied opportunities to age successfully
- ▶ Work with community partners to address the challenges of aging

### Is There a Village Near Me?

Use the map on [vtvnetwork.org](http://vtvnetwork.org) to search for a Village near you.

### How Can I Start a Village?

See tips for starting a Village under the "What is a Village?" section from our homepage or send an email to: [vtv@vtvnetwork.org](mailto:vtv@vtvnetwork.org).



# Scaling a Sustainable Model for an Aging Society

## Village to Village Network (VtVN)

VtVN is the national association that supports and advocates for the Village Movement that empowers older adults to age in community. Through its programs, services and resources, VtVN assists Villages in formation, energizes functioning Villages and serves as a Village commons to connect its members. The Network also advocates for the Village Movement at the local, state and national levels.

VtVN membership has more than tripled in size since our founding in 2009. Several hundred Villages are enabling more than 40,000 older adults to continue living at home in a safe, healthy and socially connected way. VtVN members are currently in 42 states, the District of Columbia and three countries (U.S., Canada, and Australia).

*When you are going into fairly uncharted territory (when you start a Village), you really need something to direct you. I needed a type of structure and the Village to Village Network has provided it.*

- Madeline Franklin, Director of STL Village, St. Louis, Missouri

## What We Do

- ▶ Provide expert guidance and resources for starting new Villages, including a step-by-step "How To" guide
- ▶ Conduct research that identifies best practices in operations and partnerships, including our [Leveraging Resources Handbook](#)
- ▶ Offer mentoring services for both new and established Villages
- ▶ Hold an annual national conference to share innovative ideas, best practices and key trends in aging
- ▶ Facilitate peer-to-peer interactions and knowledge exchange among Villages via monthly webinars and discussion forums,
- ▶ Create innovative programs that help build Village leadership
- ▶ Provide an extensive documents library and webinars to strengthen Village business systems and operations and to advance efficiency and sustainability
- ▶ Negotiate member discounts with service providers that provide operations management software, home care, background checks, insurance and website technology for older adults
- ▶ Serve as the leading voice of the Village Movement at the local, state and national levels

## Join us as we transform aging in community!

For membership information, visit our website [vtvnnetwork.org](http://vtvnnetwork.org).

## Village to Village Network Board of Directors

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