Growing a Sustainable Model for Aging in Community – Together

“As the longevity revolution unfolds, senior villages will become one of the distinctive social inventions of our time.”

Theodore Roszak, *The Making of an Elder Culture*

The Village to Village (VtV) Network is a membership-based organization bringing Villages across the nation together to create a national learning community to replicate the Village model nationwide. The VtV Network was created in 2010 as a way for Villages to share best practices. In 2015, it transitioned to a fully member-managed organization.

**Mission**

The mission of the Village to Village Network is to enable communities to establish and effectively manage aging in community organizations initiated and inspired by their members.

**Growing Demand for Support**

Awareness of Villages has increased dramatically along with media coverage. *Consumer Reports*, *Forbes* and many other national publications have cited joining a Village as a top tip for people who want to stay active as they age. As more seniors seek out and join Villages, the demand for support from the Village to Village Network has increased.

- In 2015, the Village movement has grown nationwide to over 160 active Villages and another 160 in development.
- Membership in the VtV Network has grown from 68 in 2010 to 285 in 2015; these organizations serve over 25,000 older adults.
- VtV Network member organizations are located in 42 states, the District of Columbia and four countries (U.S., Canada, Netherlands and Australia).
- Attendance at the national VtV Network conference has increased each year and is expected to be over 300 in 2015.
- The VtV Network online library has grown to over 500 documents in 2015 as more Villages request and share materials.
**Created by Villages, for Villages**
The VtV Network facilitates the sharing of member knowledge and provides guidance and resources to help individual Village organizations develop, grow and serve their members.

> "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, STL Village, St. Louis Missouri

Through this support, the VtV Network promotes the Village model as a sustainable approach allowing people to continue living at home in a safe, healthy and socially connected way.

> "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

> "Everything from chores to medical appointments/services is offered by my village. They are truly wonderful."
> - John S., Village member

**Village to Village Network member services include:**

- "How-To" guide for starting a new Village
- Website development and ongoing technology support
- Monthly webinars and discussion forums related to Village management and services
- Regional and national conferences to share best practices and important trends in aging
- Opportunities to serve in leadership roles helping other Villages
- Advocating on behalf of the Village model at national forums on aging
- Negotiating VtV Network member discounts with service providers

**The Importance of Your Financial Support**
Membership dues are the primary source of income for the day-to-day operations of the VtV Network. We rely heavily on our annual campaign and donor contributions to meet the growing demand for services from developing and existing Villages.

A key goal of the VtV Network is to provide grants to Villages to support a variety of activities aimed at strengthening business systems and operations with an eye towards sustainability. This can only be accomplished by growing our financial resources. Your contribution today will help ensure the Village to Village Network is here for your Village and for all Villages in the years to come.