



Barbara Hughes Sullivan, Executive Director



Dear Village Members,
Friends and Supporters!

May is Older American's Month! The Administration for Community Living has lead our nation in observance of Older

Americans Month for 56 years! We are excited to share the 2019 theme, "Connect, Create, Contribute".

- Connect with friends, family, and services that support participation.
- Create by engaging in activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment.
- Contribute time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

We all know firsthand that communities that encourage the contributions of older adults are stronger! By engaging and supporting all community members, we recognize that older adults play a key

role in the vitality of our neighborhoods, networks, and lives. Everyone benefits when everyone can participate. We encourage you to connect, create, and contribute for stronger and more diverse communities this May. Offering an activity or event is a fun and effective way to celebrate Older Americans Month (OAM). There are countless approaches to planning activities like this. Below are a few ideas to get you started.

Connect

- Arrange a sit-down meal or pot luck to celebrate OAM and consider recognizing Village members for their accomplishments. Ask local leaders to attend and/or speak.
- Plan a game night or crafting activity that brings people together in the name of fun. Invite guests for their feedback and think about turning it into a regular event.
- Encourage members to share their experiences, perhaps around a certain theme.
- Plan a virtual date night with family or friends. Pick or create an occasion to call or video chat with others and celebrate.



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Create

- Offer a class on computers and social media to help people become comfortable connecting online.
- Plan a resource fair or set up a kiosk at community events to inform older adults about services and supports available to them.
- Inspire Villagers to express themselves through art, dance, exercise, or other personal enrichment activities.
- Host a workshop on key issues like starting a new career, personal finance, nutrition, or safety. Consider engaging a Village member to lead the workshop.
- Create a virtual Village to bring older adults in your community together through an online forum. Virtual events can cover topics related to shared interests of your group. It also helps those that are isolated and home bound.

Contribute

- Coordinate one or a series of community betterment activities (e.g., cleanups, gardening, donation drives-make it intergenerational!).
- Host a fundraising event, like a community walk or bake off, to benefit local programs
- Promote the work of Village volunteers and organizations that support your Village. Recognize their contributions at a public event or in the media.
- Use social media to connect older adults with resources and each other. Consider hosting a photo, caption, or story contest to encourage interaction.

The Administration for Community Living has some logos, posters and other materials available for use at:

<https://acl.gov/oam/2019/materials>

Congratulations Peggy Simpson!

Village to Village Network Board Member Peggy Simpson is one of the first recipients of the ***Linda Harsh Distinguished Service Award*** from Dupont Circle Village in Washington, D.C.

The award is given to recognize the work of special DCV members who have gone the extra mile to help the mission of DCV. Among the many members whose efforts drive the progress of DCV, the recipients of this award stand out for the longevity and intensity of their work for DCV.

The other award recipients are Iris Molotsky and Kathy Cardille. These amazing women will receive the award at DCV's April 26th SOLAR-bration gala.

Congratulations to you all!

Visit Dupont Circle Village's website here:
<https://www.dupontcirclevillage.net/>



Peggy Simpson, Village to Village Network Board Member, and Linda Harsh Distinguished Service Award recipient.

National Village Conference UPDATE!

Details are still coming together for the National Village Conference in Chicago, **September 18-20** at the Sheraton Grand Hotel!

NO AIRLINE DEAL

In the last newsletter we said to wait before you book your air travel, as we were working with an airline on a possible discount. It turns out that the deal they were offering was too restrictive and not worthwhile to pursue. We will keep our eyes open for any other possible savings, but we recommend booking air travel as soon as possible for the best price.

SHARE A ROOM

We encourage sharing a room as a great way to save money. If you are a VtV Network member, feel free to use the Forums to connect with a possible roommate. If you are not a VtV Network member, just send us an email and we will post your name and contact info on our Forums to try and match you with a roommate. Send an email to: vtv@vtvnetwork.org.

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM

A room block at the Sheraton is available for conference attendees.

The special rates are available from September 14-22, in case you want to come to Chicago a little early or stay a little late. You must book by **August 15** to get the special rate.

Click the button below to book your room now!

[Book Sheraton Room Here](#)

FREE BOOK FOR FIRST 100

We are excited to offer ***How to Live Forever*** by Marc Freedman to the first 100 registrants. Don't miss out on Early Bird registration and get a FREE book! *(Additional books will be available for purchase at the conference.)*

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL JUNE 1

Registration for the 2019 National Village Conference is now open! Visit the [Conference](#) page at vtvnetwork.org to view pricing and to keep up on the latest details. Early Bird registration will end on June 1, so register now and save.

[Click Here To Register](#)

BECOME A SPONSOR!

We are still looking for Sponsors and Exhibitors for the conference. If you or someone you know would like to become a sponsor of this year's conference, check out the Sponsor Prospectus!

[Sponsor Prospectus](#)

Fill out and return the Sponsor Agreement form by **June 28, 2019**.

[Sponsor Agreement](#)

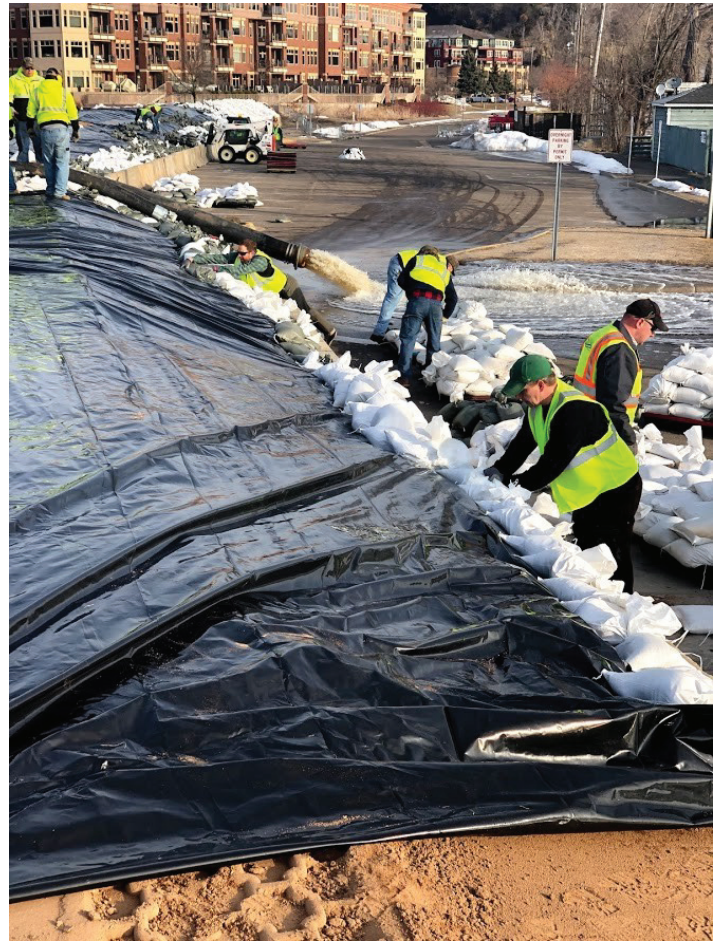


Community Thread steps up for emergency service

Community Thread, a Village to Village Network member out of Stillwater, Minnesota, plays a huge role in their community. This past March, weather forecasters warned that Stillwater was in danger of serious spring flooding.

Washington County Emergency Management called upon Community Thread to be the “volunteer hub” to assist with recruitment and management for flood preparations.

Community Thread was able to provide a great deal of support in both recruitment of sandbagging volunteers and assistance with volunteer management.



Volunteers recruited and managed by Community Thread in Stillwater, Minnesota, responded in a huge way to prevent disastrous flooding in their city.

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS

373 VOLUNTEERS

1,347 SERVICE HOURS

\$33,257 VALUE OF VOLUNTEER TIME

60,000+ SANDBAGS WERE MADE

A 2,000 FOOT DIKE WAS CREATED

Community Thread has been serving the St. Croix Valley since 1967. They connect people and enrich lives through a variety of programs.

One such program will be a Village called [Thrive at Community Thread](#), scheduled to launch later this year! Way to go, and keep up the awesome work!

(Information provided by Community Thread)



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Taking the Village Movement Forward!



Barbara Sullivan, VtV Network Executive Director, speaks to the audience at the American Society on Aging Conference in San Francisco.

Village to Village Network has had a very busy spring schedule. On March 29, VtVN attended and co-sponsored the **Community Networks for Aging in Place Alliance (CNAP)** workshop in Newton, Massachusetts. This was a day-long workshop that also included Network Villages via satellite in the Berkshires and Cape Cod. The CNAP workshop provided sessions to examine the spectrum of needs and interest to the aging population in Massachusetts. VtVN Executive Director Barbara Sullivan was the keynote speaker and presented on the national movement and advocacy in aging services.

The Network was well represented with presentations from Laura Connors, Executive Director of Beacon Hill Village, Paula von Kleydorff of Carleton-Willard at Home, Susan Loucks with Neighborhood Falmouth and Howard Shapiro with Berkshire Villages. Massachusetts is leading the way with wonderful collaborations with area

Councils on Aging and Age Friendly state initiatives.

VtVN also attended the [American Society on Aging](#) conference "Aging in America" on April 15. Sullivan, Kate Hoepke with San Francisco Village and Roscoe Nicholson, research committee chair for VtVN and University of Chicago, presented "Village Movement Forward, Evolving the Village Model."

The presentation included the Network demographic story, public policy addressing the needs of aging, the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness, organizational and member characteristics, Village advocacy, sustainability and Village Movement California. The ASA conference was a great opportunity not only to learn more about initiatives taking place throughout the U.S., but also advocacy in state and federal arenas. The conference was a great opportunity to network with many of our preferred providers, look at new funding sources and hear about new technology advances in aging.

Mandy Summerson, VtVN Board President said "The ASA Conference was a fantastic opportunity to learn the latest programs being utilized in the aging field and ways improve quality of life for older adults. The networking opportunities were tremendous, and it is always wonderful to share and learn about current practice successes with others in the aging field. Of particular interest is the potential changes in the Older Americans Act."

Stayed tuned for more information about how we are taking the Village Movement Forward! We're presenting in Virginia, California and Washington, D.C. in the coming weeks!

I'On At Home, the neighborhood Village

I'On At Home, located in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, is in its third year of operation. One of only two Villages in the Charleston area, we have 80+ households as members, comprised of nearly 150 individuals. We are somewhat unique among Village organizations, in that our service area is made up of only a single, defined neighborhood.



We have learned a great deal in our initial phase. One of the surprises has been that our members are much more interested in participating in programs and events than in receiving services. In retrospect, perhaps we should have expected this, since they are mostly younger, active seniors who are living independently. It will be interesting to see how this situation changes over the next several years.



Members of I'On At Home are currently more interested in social programs and events than they are in transportation and other services typically popular at other Villages. Successful Villages cater to community wants and needs.

Our most popular programs are those with a strong social component as well as those that involve going behind the scenes are some of our many area historic and cultural sites. It seems clear that our members understand the importance of remaining engaged socially and cognitively, as well as the value of building our community of support.

(Article submitted by I'On At Home)

We are so happy to have I'On At Home as a Village to Village Network member. All Villages are unique and are successful when they cater to the wants and needs of their communities.

Visit www.vtvnetwork.org to see if there is a Village near you!

Village Anniversaries!

Carquinez Village - Benicia, CA - 2 years

Conejo Valley Village - Westlake Village, CA - 2 years

TRAIL of Johnson County - Iowa City, IA - 2 years

Senior Village at SaddleBrooke - Tucson, AZ - 3 years

Newton At Home - Newton, MA - 8 years

Stay at Home in Wilton - Wilton, CT - 9 years

Neighborhood Falmouth - Falmouth, MA - 10 years

Mill City Commons - Minneapolis, MN - 11 years

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New Podcast from Silvernest

Village to Village Network sponsor, Silvernest, has a new podcast called **Share Your Story**, highlighting the experts and ideas shaping the aging space.

Find **Share Your Story Episode 1: Examining the Impact of the Silver Wave** with Seniors Matter CEO Karen Brown by clicking the button below.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Learn more about Silvernest at:

<https://www.silvernest.com/>



Please Support Village to Village Network

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