



December 2015 Progress Report

Ways to join SW@Home. Dozens of planning volunteers are making great progress in eight key areas of the program already. We feel like we're really on our way! Sometime early in 2016 you'll be able to join SW@Home as a member, a supporting member, and/or a service volunteer.

- **Members** are South Whidbey residents 55 and over who get access to volunteer services (as available), our list of trusted businesses (some offering discounts), and social and educational activities.
- **Supporting members** are people of any age and address who have access to our list of trusted businesses and are welcome at any of our activities, but do not receive volunteer services.
- **Volunteers** can be members, supporting members, or people of any age from the community. They can set their own hours and the kinds of services they're most interested in performing.

Annual dues set. For our first year we will be experimenting with what we think is a very South Whidbey dues structure: **we all pay the same**. Dues for both full members **and** supporting members will be \$240 a year per household. Supporting members will be able to deduct \$200 from their income taxes as a donation if they choose.

Why should a supporting member pay the same dues as a member who also gets access to volunteer services?

- To help keep annual dues low so income is less of a barrier to participation.
- Because you want to be sure it's there when you or a family member need it.
- Because you believe strongly that we're all in this together.

This dues structure is based on our belief that South Whidbey will embrace this inclusive, egalitarian approach, and that it will be sustainable for the long term. If we are wrong, we will likely have to raise fees in future years, at least for full members.

The timeline. We hope to have our information-filled website up in late January or early February. Online applications for membership and volunteering will be available there. Printed applications will be available by mail or at informational public and in-home conversations about SW@Home in February and into the spring. In the spring we hope to be beta-testing the program, training volunteers, and maybe setting up an office space. Our dream is to open by June 1, 2016. It feels like we're moving forward with great energy and focus right now, but we have to allow for the unexpected.

Looking for office space. We can operate SW@Home remotely—the technology exists. But we think it would be more helpful to both members and volunteers if we had a small office space—enough for a desk, a table, and some chairs. Does your business have some semi-private space in a convenient location to offer as an in-kind donation? Langley, Freeland, Bayview areas would be best, but any offer would certainly be considered. We don't expect much drop-in traffic.

South Whidbey at Home is a membership-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping South Whidbey residents age 55 and over remain in their homes and active in the community by providing access to a variety of professional services, volunteer assistance, and social activities. We are committed to improving the well-being of our members by connecting people of all ages in a mutually beneficial way.

For more information you can contact us at southwhidbeyathome@whidbey.com or at P.O. Box 557, Langley WA 98260, or Follow us on Facebook.