



## National Village Gathering will meet in Seattle

The Village to Village ('VtV') Network will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> annual National Village Gathering in Seattle (October 5-7) this year. The theme is "The Village Movement: Aging's New Frontier." This is a great opportunity for those of us who live in the region to learn more about the movement and to benefit from the experience of established villages. We will be able to apply what we learn as we develop our own village in Bellingham. The Village to Village Network, of which Bellingham At Home is a member, is a national peer-to-peer network formed to help establish and continuously improve management of member villages. This organization is more than 150 villages strong. Details are at the [Village to Village website](#).

Bellingham At Home members will be sending a delegation to participate. If you would like to attend the gathering, please contact Bellingham At Home (contact information below).

## Steering Committee Pledge Contributions

Bellingham At Home has moved forward to collect pledges from our Steering Committee Members to jumpstart our fledging organization. Members have responded affirmatively and generously. We initiated Pledge Day on May 15, and will close our appeal August 15. Financial contributors will then become members of the Bellingham At Home Founders Club, along with future community donors. Letters to prospective donors are in the final stages of preparation, and will be distributed over the next month.

## Farmers Markets



Watch for Bellingham At Home at the farmers markets in Bellingham. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and share our vision for an aging in place "village" in Bellingham. Look for our table at the downtown market on Saturdays and at the Fairhaven market Wednesdays.

**Left: Barb Evans greets visitors at the Saturday Farmers Market in downtown Bellingham. Other volunteers who have participated include Elaine Cress, Richard Abbott and Nanette Davis.**

## Volunteer!

*If you would like to offer your services, please let us know. You can [fill out this form](#), print it and mail it to us, or simply email us your contact information (name and email address) and areas of interest. *If you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to the address at the bottom**

of this newsletter.

To get Bellingham At Home to the point where services for seniors can be delivered, we need volunteer help *now*:

- Connect us with your neighborhood association and help share our plans at the neighborhood level.

- Participate with us at the farmers markets.
- Help us get the word out by marketing our story to the community.

There is much work ahead, both as we develop Bellingham At Home and after its launch, so please let us hear from you!

## FAQ #1

Is an “aging in place” village an actual place, with housing?

No, like other such organizations across North America, Bellingham At Home is a “village” of services offered to seniors to enable them to remain independent in their homes.

## Help Your Parents Age in Place

Many people like the idea of an “aging in place” Village like Bellingham At Home, but they don’t need community support yet. You may not be a candidate for Bellingham At Home services yourself, but you may know people who might be. Consider your parents or other aging relatives. Can they get around the way they need to? Have they given up driving? Can they get to the store or to appointments when they need to or to regular activities that they enjoy? What do they do when an out-of-reach lightbulb burns out? Do they have regular social contacts? You can help them maintain their independence by sponsoring their membership in Bellingham At Home. Before our village goes live, we are compiling a list of people who will need our services.

And even if you’re not ready for the services of Bellingham At Home, you may be in a position to become involved with our organization. Volunteers are needed to help us launch our village and to provide ongoing services to members who are aging in place. To offer your services, please see *Volunteer!* (above).

## Launch Timeline

There is much to be done before Bellingham At Home can begin delivering services to members, including setting up an office, hiring an administrator and recruiting volunteers. Our steering committee is hard at work developing a timeline for launch. Please watch our website and this newsletter for updates.

## For more about us...

Come and visit the Bellingham At Home [website](#). We've recently updated our content on the Whatcom Council on Aging website and plan to maintain it regularly. Stop by often, and keep up with our activities and progress!

### Bellingham At Home Contact Information

**Currently at:** Bellingham Senior Activity Center, 315 Halleck Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

**Phone:** 360 746-3462

**E-mail:** [info@bellinghamathome.org](mailto:info@bellinghamathome.org)

**Website:** <http://BellinghamAtHome.org>

Bellingham At Home (“BAH”) is a program of the [Whatcom Council on Aging](#), which is a 501(c)(3) organization, and a member of the [Village to Village Network](#).