

Love Living at Home
History ~ From Concept to Opening

January 24, 2014

Brian Williams, NBC Nightly News, conducts an interview with a “Village” called Staying Put in New Canaan. This creates a buzz in the broader Tompkins County Community.

Early Spring 2014

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging and Ithaca College Gerontology Institute organize a meeting to discuss emerging issues for seniors and the “Aging in Place” model. Based on the interests expressed in this meeting, two working groups are formed: one interested in senior housing, the other focused on the “Aging in Place” model.

May 2014

Leslie Quest and Kathy Garner Darnieder attend the first meeting for people interested in the “Aging in Place” model. This group begins monthly meetings to explore the “Village” model (based on Aging in Place best practices) for Tompkins County.

June / July 2014

Leslie Quest works with a group to analyze community needs and interests via a survey. The survey is distributed widely throughout the county.

August / September 2014

Survey responses demonstrate a strong desire among seniors to continue living in their own homes as they age, and positive interest in the Village model. Needs were identified, and many of the respondents indicate urgency to develop this option for Tompkins County. Concerns around membership cost, and having a range of options for strong engagement in the community are also considered.

September 2014

- The Aging in Place group meets to discuss the results of the survey and to consider a report from the Village to Village national conference.
- The group decides to move forward to develop a Village based on the Aging in Place model. Group members determine initial leadership roles (Jim and Leslie Quest and Kathy Garner Darnieder) and outline the goals for a steering committee to develop the model.
- Leadership joins the Village to Village network on a trial basis, which provides access to all the Village to Village documents, and attend the Village to Village annual conference in Washington. They also meet with members and staff of Staying Put in New Canaan to further benchmark best practices.

- A data base is created beginning with the original “Aging in Place” discussion group and adding everyone who expresses interest in the model. Regular updates are generated to maintain interest.

October 2014

- Leadership engages Kara Pass and Percy Browning to identify potential Steering Committee / Board Members.
- Jim Darnieder participates in many long discussions regarding naming the new organization, and recognizing the need for a brand that expresses the values and goals of the group suggests “Love Living at Home” (LLH).

October, November, December 2014

Leadership meets individually with prospective Steering Committee / Board members.

January 12, 2015

FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE / BOARD (see attached roster)

In preparation for this meeting, leadership engages Mary Kane of Concept Systems to further develop and refine short and long-term goals. Mary moderates the initial steering committee meeting, helping the group explore the model and how it might meet the needs of the Tompkins County community. In the following months, Mary meets regularly with leadership to continue identifying best practices and strategize next steps.

January 2015 and beyond

- Leadership establishes relationships with agencies and organizations within the community, holding numerous individual meetings to talk about the goals and plans for LLH and to directly address concerns around duplicating services and forming partnerships.
- Leaders from these agencies are invited to speak to the LLH Board with goals of developing good relationships with existing organizations, as well as educating Board members about existing services for older adults in Tompkins County.

February 2015 meeting cancelled due to a snow storm

February 2015

LLH officially joins the Village to Village Network and asks Jane Nyce, Village to Village board member and the first Executive Director for Staying Put in New Canaan, to be the official mentor to the group.

March 2015 the Steering Committee becomes the LLH Board (see attached roster)

The Board approves the LLH Mission Statement.

Late Winter / Early Spring 2015

Committees are developed, with each using a variety of different Village to Village materials as guidance.

Chairs are selected.

- SERVICES, Ann Colt
- MEMBERSHIP, Carol Scheele
- PROGRAM, Shelley Semmler
- FINANCE, David Sprague
- MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS, TBD
- DEVELOPMENT, Jim Quest
- MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, John Turner

Board Officers are elected:

- Kathy Garner Darnieder, Chair
- Robin Dubovi, Co-Vice Chair
- Mary Kane, Co-Vice Chair
- David Sprague, Treasurer
- Leslie Quest, Secretary

SUMMER 2015

- The official Opening Date for Love Living at Home is set for October 24, 2016.
- Committees begin work for opening, meeting monthly to research and discuss policies, procedures, and handbooks are developed.
- Elena Flash agrees to complete LLH legal work, pro bono, joining the Board and the Management and Operations Committee as Chair.
- LLH Statement of Purpose for IRS submission is reviewed and approved by the Board.
- Love Living at Home is incorporated.
- Leadership attends all committee meetings to maintain continuity in decision making. The Committee Chairs agree to join the monthly Executive Committee meetings to further communication and coordination.

November 2015

- Village to Village mentor Jane Nyce spends three days in Ithaca meeting with Officers, the Board and with each Committee – providing expertise, answering questions and brainstorming.
- Following these meetings and her counsel, the Board decides to serve the whole county.
- The Membership Committee spends months researching membership fees in a number of “Villages.” In coordination with the LLH treasurer, the Board discusses and votes on a mid-range annual membership fee: \$450 for individuals and \$575 for households. A household is defined as a home where at least one member is 62 years of age or older. From the beginning, the Board has maintained a strong commitment to ensuring access to the program, providing financial aid to those who might not be able to afford the annual fee.

November / December 2015

- LLH receives its 501(c)3 status a month after sending in the application, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Elena Flash.
- The Executive Committee votes unanimously to recommend that Elena Flash be hired as Love Living at Home's first Executive Director.
- The Board of Directors votes unanimously to hire Elena Flash, whose employment officially begins in April 2016.
- LLH begins to receive start up gifts (both financial and in-kind) from Founding Sponsors: Tompkins Trust Company, Triad Foundation, Warren Real Estate, Hancock Estabrook, Sprague and Janowsky, Cayuga Medical Center, Leslie R. Quest Bookkeeping Services.

January – October 2016

- Committees and the Board work diligently to ensure that LLH will be ready to open on October 24, 2016.
- Cayuga Medical Center provides staff to design the LLH logo and stock photos for the website and brochure.

April 2016

- Elena Flash officially begins her work as Executive Director.
- LLH offices are located in the Gateway Center thanks to generous support from Hancock Estabrook.

May 2016

- An early membership drive is conducted.
- Information Sessions are held throughout the county:
 - 5/11/26, Kendal at Ithaca
 - 6/18/16, Foundation of Light
 - 7/12/16, Cayuga Medical Center
 - 8/6/16, Lifelong
 - 9/3/16, Cornell Wellness Program
- Ann Colt, Chair of the Services Committee and Carol Scheele, Chair of the Membership Committee are honored as Love Living at Home's first Volunteers of the Year. They were recognized for their deep commitment to LLH's mission and their tireless efforts to make Love Living at Home a reality. They spent countless hours coordinating efforts between the two committees. Without their diligence, Love Living at Home would not have realized its goal of opening its virtual doors on October 24, 2016.

OCTOBER 24, 2016

- **Love Living at Home officially opens.**
- **Programs and services begin.**

October 30, 2016

A launch party “Love Living at Home Takes Flight” is held at Cornell’s Lab of Ornithology. John Fitzpatrick, Director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, is the keynote speaker.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: What we learned along the way.

1. We are all neighbors helping neighbors.
2. While the Board of Directors and Committees worked hard to achieve our goals, we found that a slow, steady and thoughtful process worked well in all areas. The LLH Philosophy is to do the basics well, so that a firm foundation is established for growth in the future.
3. Important work takes place at the Committee level. Committees do an incredible amount of research and discussion before bringing a recommendation to the Board. The Board then listens and asks questions.
4. If a new idea comes up within the Board or the Membership, it is sent to the appropriate Committee for research, discussion and recommendation.
5. New Board Members come from the Committees. These are people who have a proven commitment to LLH’s mission and who are dedicated volunteers.

Revised: 10/22/20

Love Living at Home

Steering Committee

January 12, 2015

Kathy Garner Darnieder, Chair, Co-Founder
Jim Quest, Co-Founder
Leslie Quest, Co-Founder

Michelle Benedict-Jones
Percy Browning
Bob Case
Ann Colt
Kathy Garner Darnieder
Mary Pat Dolan
Robin Dubovi
Brad Grainger
Jim Johnston
Mary Kane
Tammarion Lam Warren
Ryan McCune
Paula Peter
Carolyn Peterson
Jim Quest
Leslie Quest
Shelly Semmler
Carol Scheele
David Sprague
John Turner
Lisa Whitaker
Patrick Weir
Gene Yarussi

Love Living at Home
Board of Directors
March 2015

Officers:

Chair, Kathy Garner Darnieder
Co Vice Chair, Robin Dubovi
Co-Vice Chair, Mary Kane
Treasurer, David Sprague
Secretary, Leslie Quest

Board:

Michelle Benedict-Jones
Percy Browning
Bob Case
Ann Colt
Kathy Garner Darnieder
Robin Dubovi
Jim Johnston
Mary Kane
Tammarion Lam Warren
Ryan McCune
Carolyn Peterson
Jim Quest
Leslie Quest
Shelly Semmler
Carol Scheele
David Sprague
John Turner
Lisa Whitaker
Patrick Weir
Gene Yarussi