



Village Santa Cruz County

Become a Member

The Village Model of supportive aging within one's community began in the early 2000s when a group of neighbors in Boston banded together to support one another to 'age in place'. Today there are over 300 Villages nationally, each independent and unique, connected through Village to Village National Network, which includes the 50+ California Villages of Village Movement California.

Village Santa Cruz County (The Village): On Feb.1, 2017 we launched Village Santa Cruz County, open to all county seniors. The Village is a non-profit, dues paying organization whose members are committed to choosing how aging is lived and valued. We are a network of neighborhood community circles providing educational, social and volunteer opportunities to enable members to create and maintain a vibrant and nurturing support network. Essentially, we are elders helping elders navigate the changes, challenges and joys of aging. Each of us has years of experience and wisdom that we can share with others. We seek to live out our lives in healthy and productive ways. Within The Village, area sub-groups, Community Circles, facilitate our members building trusting relationships and finding support within their areas.

By the year 2030, 30% of Santa Cruz County's population is estimated to be over age 65. A Senior Needs Assessment by our county's Area Agency on Aging states that for the first time isolation and depression are among the top 10 issues for older adults. There is increasing evidence of the negative health effects of loneliness and isolation on older adults. It is clear that healthy aging requires social care as well as medical care. The Village model has been shown to be effective in lessening social isolation and creating strong community connections. We are in partnership and collaboration with Volunteer Center (our fiscal sponsor), SC County Senior Service Providers Group, Village Movement California, and Village to Village National Network.

Why a dues structure? Studies of the Village Model, suggest that for sustainability, member dues should finance 65% of Village costs. These costs include hosting social and educational events, ongoing communication with our members, a part-time staff, and administrative costs of running an organization day to day.

Membership: \$25/mo. which can be paid: quarterly @ \$75, semi-annually @ \$150 or annually @ \$300.

- Fun! Social activities with intention. We are building a trusting community that we can call on to support us through our transitions of aging.
- A place to find/share information and support each other in various ways.
- A variety of Village Santa Cruz presentations on subjects important to members.

Household Membership: Full cost of one membership plus \$10/mo. for each additional person (must live at same address, and access house via same door –does not include attached or detached separate dwellings). We offers as many needs-based scholarships as are possible while still maintaining our organizational sustainability.