



aging better

Become a member

The Village Story The Village Model of supportive aging within one's community began in 2002 in Boston. Some of the residents - recently retired and forward-thinking-looked at the current pattern of their oldest neighbors moving into retirement communities. That type of separation from the larger community wasn't for them. They wanted to remain living in and engaged in their Beacon Hill community. They formalized a plan to help each other achieve this. Beacon Hill Village was born. Today, there are over 350 Villages nationwide, including over 60 in California!

The Village Santa Cruz County (VSCC) Story: Santa Cruz County is blessed with many wonderful activities and services for seniors. But a group of us wanted something more. Our vision - aging better. We imagined building a support network now that will sustain each of us through our transitions of aging - whenever they occur; whatever they look like. The Village Model looked like a good fit for Santa Cruz County.

We began planning Village Santa Cruz County (VSCC). We chose a hybrid Hub & Spoke model. Within VSCC we'd form area Community Circles in order to retain a neighborhood support structure.

On Feb.1, 2017 we launched. We are in partnership and collaboration with Volunteer Center (our fiscal sponsor), Community Foundation (through a generous grant), SC County Senior Service Providers Group, Village Movement California, and Village to Village National Network

Why a dues structure? Santa Cruz County has a variety of publicly funded services for seniors; all of them stretched thin from stagnating government funding. We need innovative ideas of how we support one another. 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, and the administrative costs of running an organization day to day, including part time staffing.

VSCC offers as many needs-based scholarships as are possible while still maintaining our organizational sustainability.

Tier I, Basic Membership: \$25/mo which can be paid:

quarterly @ \$75, semi-annually @ \$150 or annually @ \$300.

- Fun! Social activities with intention. We are building a community that we can call on to support us through our transitions of aging.
- Free/reduced access to a variety of Village Santa Cruz presentations on subjects important to seniors.
- A place to find/share information.
- A way to connect with members with similar interests, and find buddies to attend social/educational events.
- Work Parties. A fun way to get your home/yard chores done, and help other members with theirs. Work and socialize as a team.
- Opportunities to support each other in various ways.

Tier II, PLUS Membership: \$35/mo.

paid quarterly @ \$105, semi-annually @ \$210, annually @ \$420.

In addition to Basic Membership benefits, PLUS members can, with a phone call or email, get help with some of those tasks needed to successfully live independently. Currently, our list of tasks we can help PLUS members with include: daily check-in, weekly friendly visit, small tasks around the home and yard, and transportation.

As volunteer drivers are available, we offer rides to to VSCC events, to medical appointments (including someone to stay with you during the visit), for other essential & non-essential trips as volunteer drivers available.

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).

VSCC is volunteer-based and does not offer professional services. We are not a substitute for in-home care. We are a peer support organization. All of our members are expected to contribute to the sense of community in whatever way possible. Member participation at our events, listening and sharing, is an important contribution.



info@villagesantacruz.org

www.villagesantacruz.org

(831) 824-2404