



aging better

## Become a member

**The Village Story** The Village Model of supportive aging within one's community began in 2002 in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston. Neighbors decided they liked where they lived and wanted to remain living in their homes and neighborhood, instead of moving to a retirement community. They came up with a plan to help each other as they aged.. Today, there are over 350 Villages nationwide, including over 60 in California!

**The Village Santa Cruz County 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 would sustain each of us through our transitions of aging - whenever they occur; whatever they look like.

In April, 2015 we began planning Village Santa Cruz County (VSCC). We chose a hybrid Hub & Spoke model; as we grow we'll form area Community Circles within the larger Village 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 60% 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.

People can join on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual pay schedule. Understanding the limited financial resources of many seniors in our community, VSCC offers as many needs-based scholarships as are possible while still maintaining our organizational sustainability.

**Tier I, Basic Membership:** \$25/mo., \$300 annual membership

- 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.
- Opportunity to join a work party. A fun way to get your home/yard chores done, and help other members with theirs. Work and socialize as a team – with a shared meal at the end!
- Opportunities to assist your elderly neighbors.

**Household Membership:** Full cost of one membership plus \$10/mo. per extra person (must live at same address, and access house via same door – does not include attached or detached separate dwellings).

**Tier II, PLUS Membership:** \$35/mo., \$420 annual membership

In addition to Basic Membership benefits, PLUS members can request help with some tasks needed to successfully live independently. Currently, our list of service tasks we can help PLUS members with include:  
daily check-in if requested, weekly friendly visits, small tasks around the home and yard, transportation to VSCC events, errands, medical trips, other as volunteer drivers available.

As volunteers are available, PLUS members can receive up to two services per week but we do want to make clear that VSCC does not offer professional services. We are not a substitute for in-home care. We believe everyone has something to offer. All of our members are expected to contribute to the sense of community in whatever way possible. Your presence at our events, listening and sharing, is an important contribution.



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