



Village Santa Cruz County

Become a member

The Village Story The Village Model of supportive aging within one's community began in the early 2000s in Boston. Some recently retired and forward-thinking neighbors decided that they wanted to remain living in and engaged in their Beacon Hill community, instead of moving to a retirement 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: A small group of Santa Cruz County residents got together to brainstorm how we could all age better. We decided that the village model would work well in our county.

On Feb.1, 2017 we launched Village Santa Cruz County.

Village Santa Cruz County is a peer-led, reciprocal, non-profit where members can grow and laugh together, and rely on each other to improve our quality of life and expand our choices at all stages of aging. Vibrant and compassionate, we support older adults as we navigate the transitions, realities, and challenges of ageing.

Our members come together week after week, to provide social connections via fun activities, educational resources, the sharing of skills, wisdom and personal experiences, and a helping hand when needed. At Village Santa Cruz County, we believe that a better experience of aging is possible with a caring community.

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.

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 and support each other in various ways.
- 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.

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 matched with a volunteer for help with some of those tasks needed to successfully live independently. Currently, our list of tasks we can help PLUS members with include: small tasks around the home and yard, transportation to both essential & social events, in-home technology support, daily check-in, and weekly friendly visits.

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.

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.



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