



aging better

## Become a member

**The Village Story** The Village Model of aging in 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!

**Our Story:** In April, 2015 a few Santa Cruz County residents began planning Village Santa Cruz. 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. Feb., 2017 we launched; Jan, 2018 we opened PLUS membership; June 2018, we're beginning our Community Circle plans. We are in partnership with Volunteer Center (our fiscal sponsor), Community Foundation (through a generous grant), and we're a member of the local Senior Service Providers Group.

**Our Vision:** Aging Better! Staying connected & engaged! being there to help each other over the long haul.

**Why a Village?** Santa Cruz County is blessed with many wonderful services for elders. But Village Santa Cruz is not just about providing services. It's about forming relationships and investing in a support network that will sustain each of us throughout our transitions of aging.

**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.

**What do my dues pay for?** Your dues will pay the cost of hosting social and educational events, the administrative costs of running an organization including part time staffing, and ongoing communication with members.

**What is the pay schedule?** People can join on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual pay schedule. With prior approval, it is possible to join month-to-month, though we discourage this due to bookkeeping and budgeting issues.

**Scholarship Program.** There are many seniors in Santa Cruz County who struggle to make ends meet. We offer a limited number of subsidized memberships, based on income.



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## **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:

- A daily check-in if requested.
- Weekly friendly visits.
- Small tasks around the home and yard.
- Transportation
  - \*To Village SC events
  - \*Errands
  - \*Medical trips
  - \*Other as volunteer drivers available. Not restricted to essential errands. Not restricted to Santa Cruz County.



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