

Program to help seniors stay independent longer looking to gain traction in Nevada County

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"What's Next," a new fundraising campaign for Sierra Foothills Village, has been launched, according to a release.

Sierra Foothills Village's mission is to help members remain safely and comfortably in their homes as they age by fostering relationships with neighbors and the community. Volunteers and preferred providers would help create a safety net that seniors often need to remain in their homes, thrive and redefine what aging means.

"Village leaders and volunteers have been working diligently to begin offering services next spring," said Board President Jeanne Clark-Scarmon in the release. "But we need to fully fund our executive director position to open our cyber doors."

Sierra Foothills Village is one of nearly 400 Villages nationwide that is offering services or in development. California has 65 villages.

"Nevada County offers a myriad of excellent services to older people so we won't duplicate the work of others," Clark-Scarmon said. "The Village will focus on knowing each individual member and making personalized referrals to address member needs.

The Village Board is intent on raising the funds required to hire a professional executive director to oversee village operations.

"Eighty percent of Villages nationwide have paid staff," Clark-Scarmon said. "Our path to success is clearly laid out. We must raise funds in order to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with other professionally-run nonprofits in our own community."

The fundraising campaign includes participating in "Giving Tuesday," the international day of giving at the beginning of the holiday season on Nov. 27. Volunteers have pledged to ask five friends to donate to the cause.

Clark-Scarmon said, "As the number of boomers in our area grows, so does the need for a Village."

To learn more about Sierra Foothills Village, go to <http://www.sierrafoothillsvillage.org> (<http://www.sierrafoothillsvillage.org>).

Source: *Sierra Foothills Village*

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