



Village Beat

Community Village Lawrence Newsletter

Edition 1

June-July-August 2014

Edited by
Amy Hope

www.communityvillagelawrence.org

www.facebook.com/CommunityVillageLawrence

The mission of Community Village Lawrence is to enhance the quality of life for the entire community by helping neighbors remain in their homes as they age. We aim to do this by creating a network of supports following the Village model to make aging at home a long-term, affordable option. Members will be a phone call away from this unique network of support as well as from social, educational, and physical activities that fit their interests.

As Community Village approaches its third year of development, we would like to share the highlights of our accomplishments, thus far. Since the inception of the idea for a Village in Lawrence, KS started in 2012, there has been much hard work, passionate energy and deliberate action taken, fueling the planning efforts and continuous growth of a bona fide aging-in-place organization, locally. The Village movement began as Eastside Village and has since expanded to include all of Lawrence; therefore, inspiring a new name: Community Village Lawrence.

Hello Friends,

Welcome to the Village Beat, Community Village Lawrence's first newsletter. Dozens of you have thrown your energy behind our push to organize. That support has humbled your Village organizers and invigorated our belief CVL will have a major presence in the Lawrence community. I hope you take a few moments to mark our progress particularly in enlisting volunteers. This newsletter is an example of one dedicated volunteer, Amy Hope, contributing her time to boost CVL visibility. Be sure to catch her historical summary of CVL's development. As our first VISTA, she offers a unique perspective on our progress. Its efforts of other volunteers like Amy who have helped move CVL forward. Building on those contributions has enabled CVL to roll-out new community service programs this summer and introduce member sustaining services in the coming months. Details of those programs are in the following pages. Join us and add your talents and ideas to this community project. I speak for the entire Board in saying we would greatly welcome your talents. Please contact Kris at our office (785) 505-0187 or me personally at (785) 424-0194. Join your Community Village Lawrence!

Chris Holmer
Board President

Community Village has recruited three AmeriCorps VISTAs since 2012, formed an executive board of directors with nine members, and developed nine working committees. We have held two successful fundraisers and hosted several public informational sessions.

Community Village has established partnerships with area organizations and services, including: Douglas County Community Foundation, Lawrence Creates Makerspace and

Center for Innovation, Douglas County Senior Center, Independence, Inc., Douglas County Health Department, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Department, the Center for Community Outreach at the University of Kansas, Tenants to Homeowners, and the Lawrence Percolator Art Gallery. We've made connections with numerous non-profits, churches and neighborhood associations.

Community Village's AmeriCorps VISTAs and board members have created a business plan, by-laws, volunteer and member handbooks and strategic plans for a 2014 launch. We've provided volunteers to senior residents needing home and yard care during KU's BIG EVENT in 2013, and will work with the Roger Hill Volunteer Center for indoor and outdoor volunteer projects later this month. Most recently, in March 2014, Community Village launched a free sample service to local residents. Read on for more information about this current available service.

Telephone Reassurance Program

The Telephone Reassurance Program provides complimentary preventative support systems for residents living in Lawrence who wish to receive daily or weekly phone calls from a volunteer. Participants in the Telephone Reassurance Program must be over 60 years of age. Participants can be younger than 60 years if they have a disability, recent injury affecting mobility, or are otherwise homebound. Participants can also volunteer to make calls to others receiving the service, to ensure both parties have ongoing communication.

To coincide with the Telephone Reassurance Program, Community Village Lawrence has partnered with the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical Department to provide participants with home safety and fire safety education and services. Services will be completed by Lawrence-Douglas County Firefighters, and participants are able to request these services through Community Village Lawrence. Services include: Smoke Detector Checks and Installations · Fire Safety Inspections · Group Education · Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults, made available by the National Fire Protection Association. For more information on the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical Department, visit their website: lawrenceks.org/fire_medical

We are currently recruiting participants for these two programs. If you are interest in becoming involved as a volunteer, member, or both, please contact CVL for more information by calling 785-505-0187 or emailing info@communityvillagelawrence.org.

Spring 2014 Fundraiser

On April 27, 2014, Community Village hosted its first annual spring fundraiser, *A Trip Down Memory Lane: 1969 Orange Bowl Revival*, featuring special guest, Bobby Douglass,



a former University of Kansas football star who led the Jayhawks to a 9–2 record, a share of the Big Eight Conference title and a spot in the 1969 Orange Bowl. Bobby also played professionally for the Chicago Bears. Crown Toyota provided the venue and we were blessed with donations of food and beverage, as well as in-kind auction item contributions from numerous local restaurants and businesses.

The afternoon was spent with supporters and newcomers to the organization. Attendees shared stories, bid on live and silent auction items and drank and ate to the cause while enjoying live entertainment by Lawrence's own "Junk Yard Band." Jeremy Taylor, Community Village's newest board member and co-host of Senior Moments on KLWN AM 1320 Saturday mornings at 10:00, emceed the event.



All proceeds will directly benefit Community Village and assist with plans to officially launch the full program of vetted volunteer services, referrals to vetted service providers, and member social and educational programs in 2014.

Community Village Lawrence has New Office Space

From September 2013-May 2014, Community Village was able to use office space in the Lawrence Creates Makerspace (512 E. 9th). Their support has been instrumental in helping CVL to develop, and we anticipate that our relationship with the Makerspace will continue to evolve. In late May 2014, Community Village accepted an offer for office space at Independence, Inc. (2001 Haskell Avenue). Our VISTA will now be based at that location, and we are happy to have the cooperation of another organization working to maintain the independence of members of our community.

Upcoming Programs and Need for Volunteers

If you have an interest in working on a specific project, Community Village is coordinating volunteers for Project Eldercool in Lawrence. [Bishop Sullivan Center](#) and the [Mr. Goodcents Foundation](#) have partnered with the [Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging](#) to bring Project ElderCool to eligible Lawrence residents. [Project ElderCool](#)'s mission is to provide a window air conditioner unit for low-income elderly persons who are without one.



Community Village is working with these organizations to help install twenty-five LG 5,000 BTU air conditioners in homes of Lawrence residents.

If you are interested in helping to install air conditioners or are in need of one, or know someone who may qualify for Project ElderCool, please contact Community Village Lawrence by calling 785-505-0187 or emailing info@communityvillagelawrence.org.

Donations

Community Village Lawrence is pleased to work under the fiscal sponsorship of Douglas County Community Foundation (DCCF), making donations to our organization tax-deductible! For information about making contributions to Community Village Lawrence, visit the "[How to Donate](#)" page of our website.

Membership

Become a future member and/or member-volunteer of Community Village Lawrence and join a strong and growing community: volunteer to help your neighbors, receive support from other neighborhood volunteers, and rely on service providers that care about Lawrence residents and are investing in the community.

Thank you for your interest in our mission and progress along the way. Stay tuned for the second edition of Community Village's quarterly newsletter to be published in September 2014. Feel free to contact us at any time, join as a volunteer or member, or attend a public meeting, living room chat or future fundraiser. We welcome all!



Standing, L-R: Chris Holmer (Chair), Brenda Nuñez, Tamara Cash, Judy Bellome, Diane Adamson, Jeremy Taylor

Seated, L-R: Mary Johnson (Sec.), Ellen Paulsen (Vice Chair), Mary Baxter (Treas.)

