

From
the desk
of...

Barbara Hughes Sullivan, Executive Director



Village Movement Forward!

Happy New Year! Thank you to all our supporters, Villages and partners for making 2018 a very successful year for Village to Village Network. As we

start a new year, we are excited about all the new ventures Village to Village Network has planned. A new city to convene our conference, new partnerships to strengthen the growth of the Network, new newsletter format (check out the new look) and new webinars and resources for our Villages!

A new year also comes with resolutions! Village to Village Network is resolved to strengthen the growth of the Village movement. We look to advocate more in the state and federal arenas, and we hope to expand funding for long term sustainability. A lot of work to be done in 2019! We have a great board of directors, committed and focused on the impact of the Village movement.

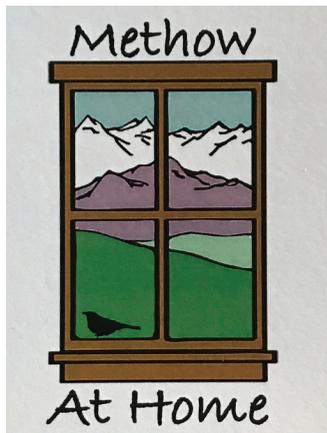
As the older adult population increases across the world, more options will be needed to assure quality of life at every stage. Villages help fill the gap between complete independence and a more dependant level of care. While not "everything for everyone," Villages do a great job of extending the amount of time older adults can remain in their own homes by providing a helping hand.

Villages offer needed services such as transportation to the doctor, the grocery store or even the hairdresser. Villages are there to help with small projects which might no longer be safe, such as climbing a ladder to change a light bulb. Villages provide social gatherings such as happy hour meetups and educational outlets to ward off loneliness.

The services provided by each Village differs as each one is an independent organization, but all Villages are formed specifically to meet the needs of those in their community.

Exciting things are happening in the Village movement and Village to Village Network stands ready to help newly forming and operational Villages get over any hurdles. Village to Village Network was formed by Villages specifically for this purpose. We are the sole organization working to expand the Village movement across the United States and even to other countries! We're moving forward, so get behind us and become part of this whirlwind!

Methow At Home, the ruggedly remote rural Village



Methow At Home now begins its 4th year serving the Methow Valley (total population approx. 5,000) in north central Washington. Ours is a rural and ruggedly remote Village nestled between the North Cascade mountains to the west and the

Okanogan range to the east.

For us, anything beyond routine medical care and small town shopping, requires a minimum round trip drive of 4 hours and 200 miles. However, for us, a walk to a beautiful alpine lake is almost in our backyard.

Living in such remarkable terrain is double-edged as pristine natural beauty goes hand in hand with challenging living conditions including, extremes of weather, rugged topography and geographic and social isolation. Challenges such as these



necessitated residents long ago developing a strong caring community.

Although this spirit of community preceded the introduction of Methow At Home by many years, in 2015 several Valley visionaries felt the Village concept could further strengthen the web of support which this Valley holds each other within. Now, 3 years later, with 175+ members and 150+ volunteers, Methow At Home is helping members, some of whom were born in this Valley as far back as the 1930s, to stay in homes a short walking distance from where they were born. This success reflects the culture of a community which recognizes personal independence is strengthened by interdependence within one's community.

One of our members who recently underwent extensive surgery, yet recuperated in her mountain home in mid-winter, expressed the following - "Grateful really doesn't cover it. I have been attached to this community for decades and this has been my spirit home for over forty years. I belong here. I will be FOREVER making an effort to return the care that I have received."

For us, it is abundantly clear that the Village concept can work in every corner people inhabit.

National Village Conference heading to Chicago!

We're excited that the upcoming National Village Conference will be in Chicago, September 18-20 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel!

The official theme for this year's conference is **"Connecting Generations"**!

We all know the importance of multi-generational connections. Studies show that people are happiest when they are connected to people of all ages. It's great to have friends that are your own age, but it's so enriching to talk to people who are younger and older than yourself. There is so much to learn from people who are in a different stage of their lives than we are!

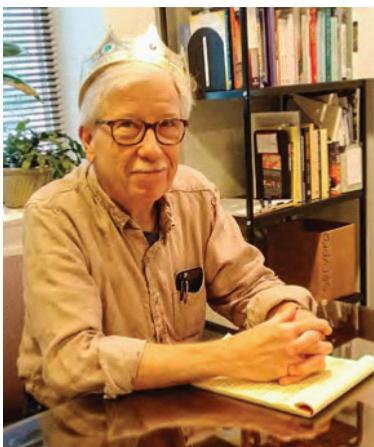
We're working on securing some amazing speakers who will address the importance of these connections — stay tuned!

We got some great comments from last year's attendees, so we're making small adjustments and working to make this year even better!

Check out these nice comments from Fred O'Brien, newly elected Board President of

HomeHaven, about attending the Village Conference:

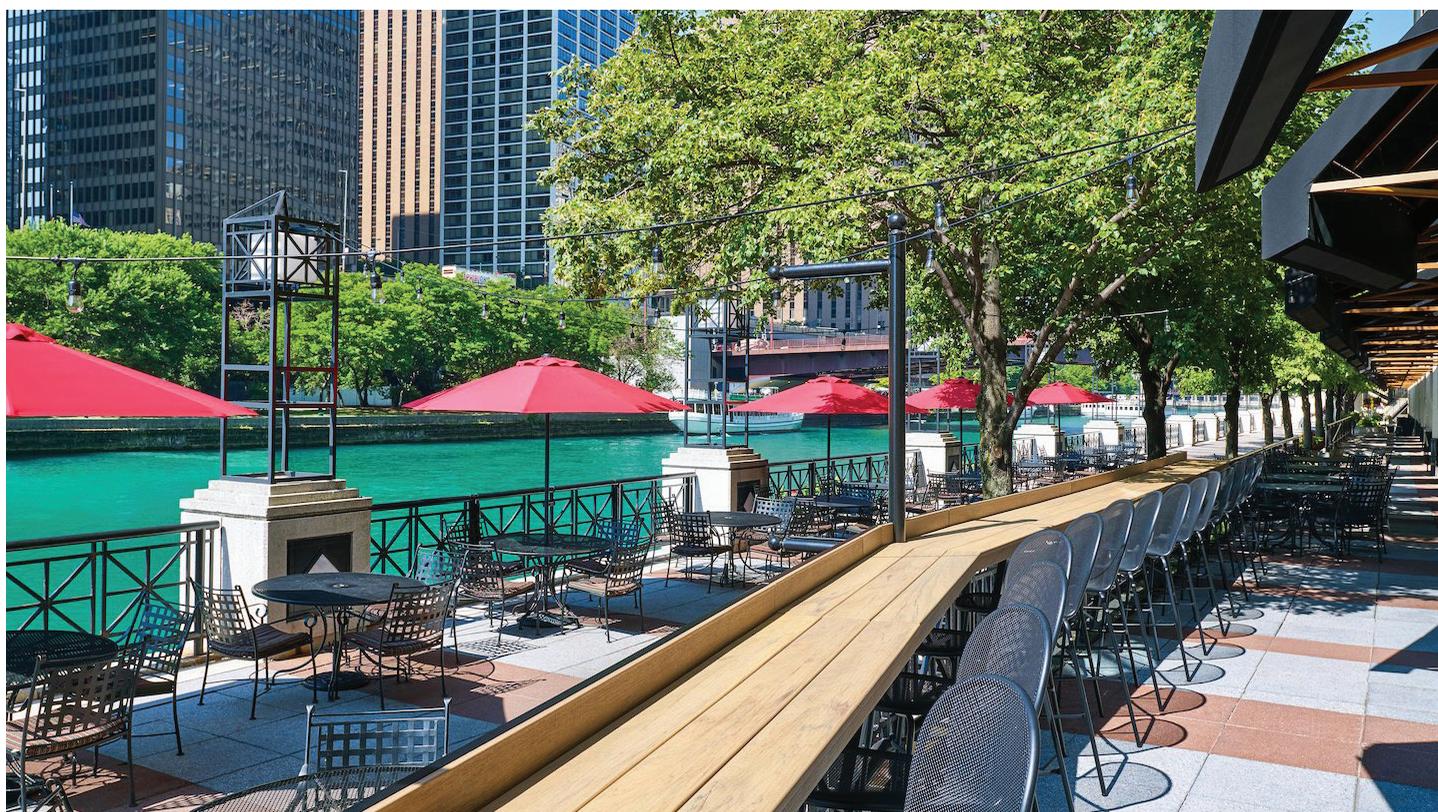
*"The National Conference was a revelation to me...To see and hear from the ever-growing armada of old folks and young in the movement was amazing. What I didn't expect was the **stunning effect of the presentations on me personally.**"*



"I was bombarded with audacious, even radical, ideas about growing old, human connection, embracing the adjustments of seniority, and

*the prospect of new definitions of family, friendship, companionship, and through that, **a new me.**"*

We are thrilled that Fred got so much out of the Conference and we are working on making this year even better!



Village Anniversaries!



Growing Older Together - Honesdale, PA - 1 year

Jersey Village Senior Outreach - Jersey Village, TX - 1 year

Groton Neighbors - Groton, MA - 2 years

Community Village Lawrence - Lawrence, KS - 3 years

LOWLINC - Locust Grove, VA - 3 years

Palos Verdes Peninsula Village - Palos Verdes Estates, CA - 3 years

Providence Village - Providence, RI - 3 years

Villages of Kensington - Kensington, MD - 3 years

The Village in Howard - Columbia, MD - 4 years

It Takes A Village 10591 - Sleepy Hollow, NY - 5 years

Lake Barcroft Village - Falls Church, VA - 6 years

SAIL Shepherdstown Area Independent Living - Shepherdstown, WV - 7 years

At Home in Greenwich - Greenwich, CT - 11 years

Staying Put in New Canaan - New Canaan, CT - 12 years



More photos
from
Methow At
Home!



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Please Support Village to Village Network