



Partnerships Are Essential

A partnership is an arrangement where two or more parties agree to cooperate to advance their personal interests. A village is formed, established, maintained, and grown through partnerships. This month, we are pleased to present examples of current village-related partnerships that reap big benefits:

- Village to Village Network Conference Report
- **Tales From the Village**
 - Ashby Village Partners with City of Berkeley to Win Aging Innovation Award
 - Ashby Village Home Match
 - How Seniors on Palos Verdes Peninsula Put 'It Takes a Village' to the Test
- Annual Member Survey – 2019
- Update: California Master Plan for Aging
- Open Position: Executive Director, Marin Villages
- Programming Update: Webinar: Staking a Claim
- **Upcoming Events Reminders**
 - League of California Cities Annual Conference & Expo
 - California Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Meeting and Allied Conference

From the Executive Director



Charlotte

You may wonder what it takes to build a new statewide organization. Some of what's required are a hardworking Leadership Team and volunteers from our movement who get work done, like producing *The Age of Leadership*, the newsletter, webinars and such.

Friends and partners who introduce us to their networks of colleagues and funders are right up there in the top five "*gotta haves*", so if you know people who know people who might be interested in our movement, please introduce us!

Networking is a big part of my job, and the past several months have opened up new doors and possibilities for all of us. Meeting leaders of the organizations and fields that touch our work expand our visibility as a statewide movement, and create opportunities for you at the local level. For example, I am building relationships with Silvernest and Covia, both home share companies that sponsored The Age of Leadership, with the intention of translating my relationships into beneficial connections for your village in your community. Daily we are seeking connections and resources to send your way so that you thrive at the local level.

Joining the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS) and its Master Plan Work Group has opened up dialogue with thought leaders in the aging field, funders, and statewide organizations whose constituents work in your communities. This past month, I was introduced to leaders of the California Long Term Care Ombudsmen Association, Leading Age, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Congress of California Seniors, the Alzheimers Association and more. You may already be working with them, or they may become your new partner. My goal in networking is to build relationships that ensure our success on the ground. Your success at the local level is our success statewide, and vice versa. We need each other.

We've been invited to give two presentations at statewide conferences: League of California Cities in October, and California Association of Area Agencies on Aging in November. I'll be speaking along with leaders from several villages. Sharing the podium and putting a spotlight on your local work builds our audience and propels our movement forward.

One of Village Movement California's goals is to establish our place in the aging services network. I work towards this goal at the statewide level every day, and I make it a practice to include examples of your successes in every meeting and presentation. You may find that it helps you to refer to our movement – Village Movement California – when you are meeting with leaders in your local communities. Being part of something larger than your village builds credibility and may just propel you into a new level of partnership.

Village To Village Network Conference Report

By Charlotte Dickson

This year's conference, *Connecting Generations*, took place on the beautifully restored Chicago River. This was Village to Village Network's 11th annual conference, and among the 200+ participants were several who have attended every one.

Fourteen California villages, all members of Village Movement California, were in the house, along with five members from out of state. (Non-California villages can join

Village Movement California though they do not participate in governance or annual surveys.)

Kate Hoepke, San Francisco Village Executive Director and Village Movement California Board Chair, gave the opening keynote address, “Staking a Claim.” She made a strong business case for villages and urged the audience to claim its expertise in the domains of social isolation, loneliness, and social care. A copy of her [slides](#) is available on the Village to Village Network and Village Movement California websites. She will deliver her remarks to California villages via a webinar on November 7, 2019 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM. Follow this [link](#) to register. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the Member Dashboard for 24/7 access.



Karimah Nonyameko, Kate Hoepke, Mandy Summerson, Marc Friedman, Charlotte Dickerson

Marc Friedman, CEO of [Encore.org](#), delivered the second keynote address. His speech included many stories about the high value and powerful impact of intergenerational relationships on mental and physical health, and synthesized a wide body of research and literature on the topic. His new book, [How to Live Forever](#), is a companion to his remarks and a must-read for anyone working with older adults.

Maureen Feldman of the Motion Picture Television Fund and Charlotte Dickson, Executive Director of Village Movement California, co-presented a workshop entitled *Social Isolation and Loneliness and the Village Antidote*. A copy of their [slides](#) is available on the Village to Village Network and Village Movement California websites.



Several conference participants joined Chicago's Climate March, putting Marc Friedman's call to support the younger generation into action

California village leaders benefited from networking with many colleagues from across the country, and Village Movement California made several new, potent connections.

Tales From the Village



Ashby Village Partners with City of Berkeley to Win Aging Innovation Award

By Steve Lustig, Ashby Village and the Berkeley Age Friendly Continuum

Ashby Village actively partners with its home city of Berkeley and other community non-profits to support several of the city's aging initiatives. With the village's help, the City of Berkeley has received the 2019 Innovation Award from the [SCAN Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging](#). The 2019 focus sought "to identify cities in California that are preparing their communities for the growth of their older adult population, and embracing innovation opportunities." Specifically, these two organizations wanted to "identify mayors and elected officials of California cities who are preparing their communities for our aging state."



Steve Lustig (center) accepts the 2019 Innovation Award from Nora Super (left), Senior Director of the Milken Institute for the Future of Aging, and Dr. Bruce Chernof (right), President and CEO of The SCAN Foundation

Berkeley has several active aging initiatives that take a multi-sector approach to municipal and community planning. These include the City, community-based non-profits, health care, service, and educational sectors to name a few. Ashby Village has been a key partner in launching and coordinating these initiatives and is the fiscal sponsor for the supporting grant funding. Additional funding comes from Kaiser Community Benefits, Alta Bates/Summit (Sutter) Medical Center, the Gerbode Foundation, and the Pilgrimage Foundation. Reports are available at www.agefriendlyberkeley.org and www.berkeleycontinuum.org.

The aging initiatives in Berkeley are community driven and grew out of conversations in city departments, the county. And among individuals and organizations. Members of Ashby Village participated and worked with partners such as the Center for Independent Living and Lifelong Medical Care (the local safety net provider) to approach the Mayor about more focused planning for the impending demographic shift. This led to one-year planning grants that included community surveys, focus groups, and research into what other cities were doing. Ashby Village coordinated these efforts. Birthed out of this first year was the Berkeley Continuum which coordinates Berkeley's Age-Friendly Initiatives. One of these projects is the Age Friendly Berkeley Action Plan, now being implemented with a cross-department Steering Committee in the City and a Community Partners Team.

The 2019 award acknowledged several contributions of Berkeley's approach:

- Enlisting multiple sectors in planning and goal setting
- Promoting pathways for innovative public/private partnerships
- Addressing needs in the built environment such as accessibility and diverse living arrangements
- Promoting person-centered, integrated care to strengthen the independence and health of older adults
- Leveraging what currently exists as well as being open to innovation

Why, with all the work required internally to run a village, did Ashby Village become involved? Because part of our mission is to transform the experience of aging for our members. However, that cannot be done in isolation. The opportunity to partner with the City and other organizations to address local conditions and future plans was within our vision of impacting the lives of older adults. It has also increased our visibility and reputation, and brought in additional income as the fiscal sponsor. We are proud of this award and our role in it, and are encouraged to continue down this path.



Berkeley Home Match: Bringing Students and Seniors Together

By Andy Gaines, Ashby Village

Last year, *Berkeley Home Match: Bringing Students and Seniors Together* was launched. This highly collaborative, intergenerational initiative between Ashby Village and the UCB Retirement Center was established to increase affordable housing options for UC Berkeley students while enabling Berkeley senior homeowners to continue living in their homes. The pilot opened with a focus on retired Cal faculty and staff, and Ashby Village members and volunteers. In its first six months, nine successful matches have already been created, far in excess of its goal of six.

Phase Two of the project includes increasing the number of homeowner participants and adding educational workshops. Discussions will begin with potential partners to support further implementation of this model including other UC campuses, the Retiree Center Network, and members of Village Movement California.



How Seniors on Palos Verdes Peninsula Put 'It Takes a Village' to the Test

The spotlight was on Palos Verdes Peninsula Village in a recent article in the Daily Breeze, a southern California publication. A village member, Ro Pinto, fell in her dining room, breaking her elbow, and was helped to get medical care by Margi Braun, a village volunteer who had just arrived to provide computer support. Other volunteers then came daily to help Ro with personal and household tasks, take her to the doctor, and handle other needs as she healed.

Ro's experience provides a snapshot of how villages help seniors stay in their homes and remain engaged in their communities. Says village Executive Director Marianne Propst, "The village has allowed (Pinto) to live her life the way she wants."

In addition to receiving services like rides to appointments, and help with basic home repairs, members participate in local events, make new friends, and develop strong connections with volunteers. The village helps people feel less lonely as they socialize and participate in building community. Read the full story [here](#).

Annual Member Survey – 2019

By Dave Kuykendell



Have you completed our Annual Survey? Understanding our villages, how we operate, and how we best serve seniors, is important to our future.

Our 2018 survey gave us a good information about the different business models villages use, the demographics of the people we serve, and which partners we choose. In our current 2019 survey we have the first opportunity to look at our California Villages over time.

If you have not already completed the survey, please provide as much information as possible by **October 10th**. If your village did not receive a link to the online survey, please let us know at datateam@villagemovementcalifornia.org. The more information we have, the more valuable this survey will be. Thank you!

Update: California Master Plan for Aging



There is a lot to report this month, and much to prepare ourselves for. The Master Plan for Aging provides us the opportunity to send a large, loud message about the value of villages, and to ask for statewide support to scale up our model.



Representatives of seven Bay Area Villages

Seven Bay Area villages attended a Sept 20 San Francisco based meeting on the plan,

sharing a resource table and engaging dozens of participants in conversation. Many of you across the state joined by video conference. Assembly Member David Chiu gave a shout out to the villages, and asked to meet with Village Movement California leaders during the Legislature's break. Support from our state legislators will be key to building village sustainability and scale.

A 34-member [stakeholder advisory committee](#) was appointed to draft the plan, 12 of whom are friends of our village leaders. Meeting with them to talk about villages is a potent tactic during this early phase of the Master Plan. The Master Plan for Aging Team is formulating a strategy to complete this important step. Stay tuned for details.

Village Movement California is working with the Department of Aging and the CA Health and Human Services Department to set up a roundtable with one of our rural villages by the end of 2019. The roundtable will give the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Mark Ghaly, and state legislators from the village's district an opportunity to learn about the issues older adults face in rural California, and to hear how the village addresses many of them. You will receive more information once the roundtable is confirmed.

Call to Action: Together We Engage

Take Action #1 – Your village can get involved now by asking your leaders, members, and volunteers to take the Master Plan for Aging's [Pledge for Action](#). The pledge asks a few simple questions about you, and then asks you to “share your suggestion(s) to make California an age-friendly state by 2030.” Please mention the village and use this [sample text](#) to ask your members to take the pledge. We want thousands of villagers to complete the pledge!

Take Action #2 – Public Hearing Hosted by the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care

When: November 19, 2019, 10:00 AM

Where: Hilton Los Angeles/North Glendale Hotel, 100 West Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, California 91202

The hearing will be held during the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Meeting and Allied Conference. There will be opportunities for public comment and presentations by organizations and leaders in the aging services network.

RSVP to Charlotte if you are planning to attend so that she can coordinate the village presence! charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org, 510-900-6380.

Take Action #3 – Be on the lookout for local meetings and discussions about the Master Plan, and attend them if at all possible. Please take note of them and send in relevant information (fliers, emails, etc.) to Charlotte@villagemovementcalifornia.org.

Join the Master Plan for Aging Team through the [Contact Us](#) link on our website.



Open Position: Executive Director, Marin Villages

By Cheryl Sorokin, Marin Villages

As you may know, Lisa Brinkmann will be stepping down as Executive Director of Marin Villages as of the first of the year 2020. We are conducting a search for an Executive Director to succeed Lisa.

This is a full time leadership position for a “hub and spoke” operation consisting of six villages. We have approximately 500 members and 400 volunteers. Our annual budget is around \$280,000.

Please pass along this information to people you know who might be interested in learning more about this opportunity. Contact Cheryl Sorokin, Board President, at cheryl.sorokin@gmail.com, for information and a full job description.

Programming Update

Webinar – *Staking A Claim: Communicating the Value Villages Offer to the Aging Continuum*, presented by Kate Hoepke, San Francisco Village Executive Director and Village Movement California Board Chair
November 7, 10:00 – 11:00 AM. Register [here](#).

Upcoming Events Reminders



League of California Cities 2019 [Annual Conference, & Expo](#), Long Beach, CA, October 16 – 18, 2019

“Villages and Resilient, Age Friendly Cities”, Charlotte Dickson, John Hall (SLO Village), Aisha Jasper (City of Fremont), Steve Lustig (Ashby Village)

Please invite your city manager and city council members to attend. Here’s a [link](#) to an email you can use.

BRAVO Meeting, Sausalito, CA, October 17, 2019, Sharing Best Practices



9:45am - 1:30pm, Sausalito City Hall Edgewater Room, 420 Litho Street, Sausalito. RSVP to sausalitovillagersvp@gmail.com



California Association of Area Agencies on Aging [Annual Meeting and Allied Conference](#), Glendale, CA, November 19 – 21

Village Movement California: Scaling the Village Model and Ideal”, Charlotte Dickson, Tony Gitt (Conejo Valley Village), Carol Kitabayashi (Westside Pacific Villages)

All newsletters are archived [here](#)

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