

FROM CAREGIVERS TO COMMUNITY:

How Villages are addressing California's growing care crisis

CAREGIVING CHALLENGES IN CALIFORNIA

Our state faces a mounting caregiving crisis as the older adult population rapidly grows. As the first group of Baby Boomers approach 85, the demand for caregiving support will dramatically increase, straining an already dwindling workforce of direct care workers.

From the **California Coalition on Family Caregiving:**

- 6.7 million adults in California are caregivers, 58% are women.
- Nearly 60% of caregivers are 45+ years old, 20% are 65+
- 9 out of 10 caregivers receive no payment for their services
- Yet caregivers cover an average of \$7,200 per year in out-of-pocket expenses
- 1 in 7 caregivers report physical or mental health problems related to their role
- 50% provide 1-5 care hours weekly; 12% provide 30+ hours

THE VILLAGE SOLUTION: MUTUAL AID IN ACTION

The **50 villages across California** are intentional, caring communities built on reciprocity and shared interest. They offer a robust response to caregiving challenges through the concept of mutual aid—neighbor helping neighbor, friend supporting friend.

What Villages Provide:

- Vital touchpoints for isolated older adults (widows, solo agers, those without nearby family)
- Programs, social engagement opportunities, and volunteer services
- Support for both caregivers and care receivers
- Training and resources for caregivers

The emergence of "community caregivers" demonstrates how villages fill community caregiver roles when traditional support systems are unavailable.



THE VILLAGE MOVEMENT

Village Movement California is a statewide infrastructure of villages ready to support the millions of older adults across the stages of aging.

- 10,000+ village members, volunteers, and caregivers in California
- 50 villages throughout the state, with several more in development
- 3,000 volunteers support villages in CA, with 1/3 being village members



My mother is in her mid-70's and lives in rural California; while I live in another state. I was not nearby to help during a recent hip replacement and know the work it takes to manage 2-3 weeks of in-home care.

Her village was miraculous! Villagers ran errands, stopped in to do chores and check-ins, and took her thoughtful gifts. Caregiving is one of the most important jobs. Without the support of caregivers, we would all suffer.

VILLAGES IN ACTION: INNOVATIVE CARE MODELS

Hospital Partnership Programs

Villages partner with healthcare systems, offering temporary memberships to hospital patients. Members receive social care navigation, reducing hospital readmissions by 4 times through grocery assistance, transportation, and resource referrals.

Buddy Connections & Training

Villages secure healthcare district funding for one-on-one volunteer connections with vulnerable members, including volunteer training to identify aging signs and connect members to appropriate resources.

Emergency Preparedness & Vulnerability Assessment

Villages use local volunteer captains and health questionnaires to identify vulnerable members, pairing them with healthcare advocacy buddies and member-referred care providers.

COMMUNITY-CENTERED CARE: THE VILLAGE MODEL

We are community-based nonprofit organizations that connect older adults to:

- Community programming and social connection
- Expertise and resources for aging in place
- Purpose-driven activities and volunteer opportunities
- Villages offer social engagement, educational opportunities and volunteer support with things such as transportation, home maintenance, technology support, and friendly calls/visits



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VillageMovementCalifornia.org