The Villages Movement

The Villages is a grassroots movement, an innovative retirement model designed to encourage and enable at-home independence and community connection for older adults. For many, it means being able to live out their lives in their own homes and neighborhoods, rather than relocating to assisted living, a nursing home, or moving closer to children.

The webinar we viewed about the Villages Movement was given by the East Bay/San Francisco/Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Villages whose members are UCB and UCSF emeriti, senior administrators, and staff.

Each Village’s range of services is self-determined, but the underlying structure is participation through being either a volunteer or member, or both, with a minimal dues for members.

The activities that are volunteered provide vetted support and services that enable one to remain in one’s home – referrals for home maintenance and repairs (e.g., electricians who will do small home projects, handyman services, plumbers, carpentry), transportation to and from medical appointments when one is unable to drive, movie outings, wellbeing checks, etc. In short, what a good neighbor would do in a traditional neighborhood.

Given the realities of a communities like Santa Barbara and Goleta, spread out and car dependent, and with many of us living alone and becoming less physically capable or perhaps with a partner whose indispensible contribution to home management and care is declining, the concept is very appealing.

There is a Village in San Luis Obispo, and what follows are excerpts from their website: https://www.slovillage.org/about.html

The mission of the SLO Village is to provide a community-based membership organization that encourages at-home independence and empowers adults to remain in their homes as they age. This is accomplished by providing easy access to a screened network of service providers and volunteers.

Social Events

Coffee & Conversation A coffeehouse gathering for conversations and getting to know each other takes place the third Wednesday of each month 10 a.m. at
Coastal Peaks Coffee, 3556 S Higuera, #100. The coffee house allows us to reserve the back room with a minimum of 5 people. **Movie Group** Members and volunteers are invited to join us at the movies on the second Tuesday of each month. After the movie, there will be an opportunity to go out for coffee or an early dinner (depending on when the movie ends). Movie title and time will be announced a week in advance or check the Office Calendar (create link) for more information.

**Village Services**

Villages avoid duplicating existing services. They make it their business to know what is offered by other nonprofits, senior centers and government agencies. SLO Village is aware of service “gaps” and we understand how to navigate community services.

**Membership**

Members pay an annual fee to have access to a screened network of service providers for home repairs, yard work, or any service required to live at home. These vetted vendors often provide their services at a discount to Village members. In addition, free services such as transportation to medical appointments, computer help, or something as simple as changing a light bulb are available through a network of screened volunteers. Some of the volunteers may even be Village members – utilizing the “neighbors helping neighbors” concept.

**Volunteer**

Villages tend to be “volunteer first,” which means that they prefer to use volunteers to deliver services. Villages provide “one call does it all” support and problem solving for their members. Volunteers provide transportation, assistance with shopping and household chores, gardening, light home repairs and maintenance for members. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please complete our [Volunteer Application](#).

**Vendors**

If you know of a business that provides reliable service at a fair price, let us know. We are looking for great service providers that can serve our Village members. Fill out the following form to recommend these businesses. If you own a business and would like to become a vetted vendor for SLO Village, click here for the [Vendor Application](#).

**Where is SLO Village?**

We currently cover San Luis Obispo, Los Osos and Morro Bay. Expansion to other areas is dependent upon leadership in the specific area.