



OLD NORTH END  
NEIGHBORHOOD



## ONEN iVillage Quick Facts

Discussions for the Old North End Neighborhood Intergenerational Village (ONEN iVillage) began in 2015 between the Old North End Neighborhood board and Innovations in Aging Collaborative staff. Those early discussions were followed by community needs assessments and surveys to determine how best to serve the ONEN community and research into various Village models and organizations from around the country. Now in 2016, we are happy to announce the formation of ONEN iVillage, Colorado Springs' first village to build the social infrastructure that allows residents of the Old North End to remain in the homes they love and build a strong and welcoming community for people of all ages.

### **What is a Village?**

First developed in a Boston neighborhood in 2001, the Virtual Village model has become enormously popular and spread across the United States with 205 active Villages and another 150 in development. Virtual Villages provide an organizational framework for neighbors to take care of one another, providing assistance with the small tasks and challenges of life that can determine whether or not older adults are able to remain in their homes, and the ease and comfort of people of any age who reside in a neighborhood and could use a little extra help. Most importantly, Villages reinvigorate a sense of community and connection to the place in which we live and the people who live there with us. Members in a Village give and receive services to other members, according to each individual need and capability. For instance, a younger resident may do yardwork or give a ride to an older neighbor, while that older adult may keep an eye on the kids of younger families, or lend their advice or expertise in a given field. Most of all, in a Village neighbors know each other, look out for each other, and lend a hand when someone is in need, as well as engaging in a diverse array of intergenerational, social opportunities and outings.

### **How will ONEN iVillage work?**

Innovations in Aging Collaborative will dedicate one staff member to be a part time Program Coordinator for the Village. This person will be responsible for coordinating requests for services with available volunteers, organizing Village wide service days, forming relationships with local businesses that can offer valuable services to members, and arranging engaging social activities and outings. Member will pay a small annual fee of \$240 for individuals (only \$20/month!) and \$360 for households (only \$30/month!), to support the logistical and administrative work of the Program Coordinator. Membership will ensure access to a full range of services and opportunities. Members are also highly encouraged to reciprocate however they can, and volunteer to help out to the best of their abilities. Services available through the village may include:

- Local transportation: rides to the grocery store, errands, appointments, social events, etc.
- Assistance with light yardwork such as watering, raking leaves, cleaning gutters, gardening, snow removal, etc.

- Help around the house: mattress turning, changing lightbulbs, removing trip or safety hazards, organizing, etc.
- Help with computers and technology
- Assistance reading and understanding legal and insurance paperwork, bills, etc.
- Friendly check-ins, medication reminders, etc.

This list should not be taken as comprehensive or limiting, as the primary purpose of the Village is to adapt to suit the needs and desires of the particular ONEN community, engage neighbors to know and help each other, and make it possible for older adults to age in place.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Is there a cost for services or opportunities received through the Village?**

While there is a flat annual membership fee, individual services rendered through the village have no cost and any member is entitled to as many as they need, within reason, of course.

### **What does a Village membership cost?**

If you sign up to become a member now, the rest of 2017 will be considered as a 'free trial' period. Purchase your 2018 year-long membership in the summer of 2017, and the remainder of 2017 services are covered! The cost of membership is \$240 for individuals and \$360 for households. If you feel you can not afford the full membership fee, please call our office to discuss a reduced membership rate. We are dedicated to help all residents in need of assistance!

### **Can I volunteer to provide help to neighbors, even if I am not a Village member myself?**

Yes, please do! We are more than happy to work with individuals who have a need or desire to volunteer, no matter where they live or what group they are a member of. Please contact the Program Coordinator if you would like to become a volunteer!

### **Are you sending random strangers into my home?**

Absolutely not. All volunteers will undergo a full round of screenings and background checks to ensure everyone's safety. We will also examine the driving records of any volunteer who will be providing transportation services.

### **Can Village volunteers paint my house, fix my plumbing, or redo my landscaping?**

No. Village volunteers are only intended to provide relatively minor, albeit important, services. However, we will develop a list of vetted, Age Friendly businesses that work with the Village who we can refer you to when you need help with the major things.

### **When can I join the Village and begin receiving help?**

We are offering immediate membership, and we are looking for Community Champions to join and help promote the iVillage! We hope you will become an early adopter of this important program. Contact the Program Coordinator to become a member TODAY!

### **I really need help from my neighbors but I can't afford the membership fee. Can anything be done?**

Yes. It is very important that everyone has access to crucial services that promote a healthy and happy life, and while we will partially rely on membership fees for our support and sustainability, we certainly

don't want to exclude anyone simply because they are unable to pay. Please contact the Program Coordinator to discuss available options.

**Do I have to be a particular age to join the Village?**

No. The Village is intended to promote aging in community, which begins at any age. We are delighted to accept all members who need services, want to provide them, or simply want to help support their neighbors and participate in friendships and socialization close to home.

**I don't want to pay for membership because I don't need services yet, but I do want to volunteer and participate in the community activities. Is that possible?**

Yes. Please contact the Program Coordinator to volunteer. Although you may not be ready to receive services yet, you may want to enroll as a member in the future. Volunteers may be eligible to use services for a reduced or complimentary rate for a period of time after one year of service to the iVillage. The Program Coordinator can provide more information on an as needed basis.

**For more information, to volunteer, or to become a member of the ONEN**

**iVillage, contact:**

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