

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission: To inspire connection, purpose, and well-being for older adults and their families through the power of community.
Vision: A world where people of all ages and abilities are respected and included.

NAVIGATING LIFE After 50

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FROM THE VILLAGE CHICAGO Leadership

Dear Friends,

Something remarkable happened over the last year. Because of you, we transformed a difficult year into an exceptional one.

Though challenged, we persevered as an engaged community of connection and services. In this 2021 Annual Report, we share what was accomplished with you as part of this community. Together, we expanded social programs to address isolation; helped hundreds of families manage the care of loved ones with memory loss and other chronic conditions; and held over 435 virtual and in-person events that kept people connected, engaged, and entertained. Our reduced fee program welcomed many new voices to the community, regardless of their ability to pay.

Despite Covid, we continued to provide referrals to trusted resources; rides, helping hands, health and wellness programming, and guidance through life transitions — all possible because of you — our compassionate and giving community.

Kathie Kolodgy
Immediate Past President

Karen Terry
President, Board of Directors

Darcy Evon
Chief Executive Officer



We remain committed to individual well-being, as well as community empowerment. We are a growing intergenerational force working to achieve a society where everyone, at all ages and stages of life, is appreciated, included, and engaged; and where everyone's strengths are recognized, respected, and utilized.

Thank you for your support, and for being champions of older adults and their families.

Very truly yours,



THE VILLAGE CHICAGO

By the numbers

VILLAGE COMMUNITY: We averaged **450** members and **4,150** family, friends, and supporters in 2021, living in Chicago, suburbs, and out-of-state.

NUMBER OF COMMITTEES: **10**
Brain Health/Memory Loss; Bridging Generations Board; Fund Development; Health and Wellness Initiative; Investment; LGBTQA; Life 3.0; Membership Engagement; Programs; Research

BRIDGING GENERATIONS BOARD: **11** steering committee members and more than **80** younger Ageless Innovators
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: **4** full time, **5** part time, **1** intern

2021 REVENUE: **\$956,290** (Unaudited)
2021 VILLAGE PROGRAMS: **436** on Zoom and in person

Breakdown of Programs:

Learning: discussion groups, memoir writing, guest speakers: **101**

Social Life: **150**

Health and Wellness: **98**

Bridging Generations: **64**

Work and Purpose: **23**

2021 MEMBER SERVICE REQUESTS COMPLETED: **1,551**

Breakdown of Services:

Filled by volunteers: **689**

Health, fitness, and well-being requests: **600**

Rides filled by 10 volunteers: **202**

Support through transitions (health, moving, end of life): **60** members and their families

PUBLICATIONS:

Weekly Member Memo to **450** households

Weekly Event Calendar to **450** households

Monthly Navigator to **4,150** households

THE VILLAGE CHICAGO Membership

“One of the reasons we joined is because we weren’t meeting new people and this opened up a whole new world for us.”

The source of The Village Chicago's strength and vibrancy is its members.

Despite the obstacles of the past year, the Village community continued to create new pathways for connection. Whether over the phone, in-person, or on Zoom, our members shared knowledge, compassion, and laughter.

In 2021, we conducted our fourth triennial Member Satisfaction Survey. The data show that we continue to deliver what people want most: being part of a community, enjoying events and activities, and meeting new and interesting people.



When asked what social issues are most important, the leading responses were isolation, diversity, and racial inequity. Our commitment to being an inclusive, equitable community will be reinforced with on-going education and training.

We are also accelerating our efforts by:

- Enrolling more Reduced Fee members
- Growing our LGBTQ+ community
- Making social events accessible to all
- Promoting age diversity through Ageless Innovators and the Bridging Generations Board
- Offering programs like the Racism Action Initiative and Turn the Page on Age

“As a gay Latino, my personal story with the Village is one of inclusion and affirmation.”

Social Life

VILLAGE CHICAGO EVENTS

“It’s a busy social scene – lot’s of camaraderie, lots of fun!”

The ongoing challenges of the pandemic made it more important than ever for our community to connect.

Members, community partners, and staff all worked together to present more than 430 compelling Zoom and in-person activities that encompassed learning, conversation, the arts, discussion, and lots of laugh-out-loud fun. Feedback indicates that these opportunities to build new networks and stronger friendships significantly helped overcome isolation and loneliness.



Annual Benefit: “The New Roaring ‘20s!”

An enthusiastic crowd of members and guests gathered in a virtual speakeasy to celebrate the new roaring twenties and a better world for older adults. We honored three extraordinary Trailblazers, enjoyed a concert from the superb Chicago Sinfonietta, and heard inspiring stories from Village members while setting a new record for fundraising! Thanks to our donors for their steady support, which allows us to stretch a little farther, reach a little higher, and set bigger goals!

Social Life

VILLAGE CHICAGO EVENTS



Banjo Night



Tour of Lincoln Park Conservatory



Walk in the park



The Chicago Sinfonietta



Indoor skydiving



Fall Fest



Village Happy Hour



Social gathering



Spring Potluck



Auction party



Annual Holiday Luncheon

Leading the Way

TRAILBLAZERS AND MORE

"I like to think that what I am doing now will benefit future generations."



The Village is a learning organization, and we place a high value on both recognizing and growing from the wisdom and example of others.

The Village Chicago Annual Trailblazer Awards

These awards are given to individuals, organizations, and authors who have shown outstanding leadership in building an age-inclusive society. The Trailblazer Award recipients for 2021 were author and activist Ashton Applewhite; Co-Founder of Chicago Innovation, Tom Kuczmarski; and Chicago's first LGBTQ-friendly housing for older adults, Town Hall Apartments, developed with Heartland Alliance and Center on Halsted.

Thought Leader Series

Throughout 2021, we invited individuals with special knowledge and expertise to

inspire and guide us including historians Dr. Carl Smith and Alexandra Dunietz; Physicians Drs. Cheryl Woodson, Lauren Gleason, Steven Fox; Neuroscientist Emily Rogalski, PhD; Second City and NBC writer and actor Mirage Thrums; entrepreneur Lou Reyes; ornithologist Josh Engel; author Shawn Shiflett; and others.

Turn the Page on Age

We have learned that age bias impacts everyone, and that to dismantle it will require an expansion of the public's understanding of the relationship between age and ability. We are thrilled to launch an exciting awareness campaign called *Turn the Page on Age*, in partnership with Chicago Innovation, and with funding from RRF Foundation for Aging. Our goal is to rewrite the narrative on age and demonstrate that we can celebrate capabilities and achievements throughout life.

A Thought Leaders Panel Discussion



Earl L. Chase



Britta Larson



Donald Bell



Gail Schechter

Health AND WELLNESS

“It’s more fun to get out for a walk when I can do it with others.”

Our Health and Wellness Program addresses all aspects of health — mental, social, and physical. Programs are designed to help members and their families better understand and manage their health through careful attention to each person's unique situation and by providing best practice educational tools and connection to trusted resources.

“I needed gentle guidance and a place I could turn to for help.”

In 2021, the Village offered 98 virtual and in-person health and wellness programs including Nutrition: Small Steps To Big Changes, A Legal Road Map to Aging Well, weekly exercise at home classes, Meditation Hour, weekly bike rides along

the lake and walks around the North Pond, Advance Care Planning, Medicare one-on-one counseling sessions, and many more.

As we continue to expand these programs, the goal remains the same — to help individuals and their families build upon their networks of support, and boost their confidence in making informed health care decisions.



Brain Health

AND MEMORY LOSS

**“We are not alone
in the journeys
we take with our
loved ones.”**

As our Brain Health Memory Loss program grows, we are altering both the perception and the experience of living with memory loss. Gone are the isolation and stigma frequently experienced by care partners and their loved ones. Through the Village, the experience now encompasses community and family support, and programming that inspires hope and confidence:

- Personalized help and guidance
- Positive engagement through art, exercise, music, and social activities
- Empowerment and a sense of community through much needed peer support groups

We continue to reach out across disciplines to identify and implement best practices, and to expand our capacity, resources, and knowledge.

“The Village has carved a path for me to find ways to help care for my wife with dementia.”



Work AND PURPOSE

"I've been retired for five years but feel very productive because of my involvement with the Village."



Some 27% of Village members are currently working or seeking employment. Others have retired and find purpose in volunteering and other activities.

Life 3.0

Our Life 3.0 Committee develops programs for the interests and needs of people 50-65 — whether that be caring for parents, continuing a career, finding a new one, volunteering — or just enjoying favorite pastimes.

The Future of Work

This well-attended intergenerational program advanced the Village's goal of enabling all generations to work as the future is reinvented.

Several programs focused on the skills and strategies needed to navigate mid-life

career options. Others explored the impact of rapid and permanent change. Dr. Salma Ghanem, Provost of DePaul University, discussed the challenges facing higher education; Argonne Labs head of Science and Climate Research, Dr. Rao Kotamarthi, addressed climate change; and Dr. Rick Steven, also of Argonne Labs, described the impact of artificial intelligence.

Volunteerism

Volunteerism at The Village Chicago soared to an all-time high during the pandemic. The community remains focused on helping others and sharing friendship, knowledge, and helping hands. In addition, many community members freely give their time and talent to the city's arts, cultural, youth, and service organizations.



Intergenerational COMMUNITY

**“Older adults
have always been
important to me. And
now, it's not just for
me— it's also for my
daughters.”**

Ageless Innovators

Throughout 2021, the Ageless Innovators cross-generational mentoring program continued to attract innovators and leaders of all ages. Launched by the Village in 2019, in partnership with Chicago Innovation with generous grants from RRF Foundation for Aging, the program now has sent nearly 300 participants into their work settings armed with best practices for achieving age-inclusive workplaces.

We are continually expanding our relationships with people of all ages to enrich the Village community through employment, health, volunteerism, and social activities. Our Bridging Generations Board, Connectors, Allies and volunteers build meaningful connections and support networks that are truly diverse.

Bridging Generations Board

The Bridging Generations Board (BGB) is a group of young people committed to building intergenerational connections within the Village community through volunteerism, lively programs, and



gatherings. Bolstered by the diverse experiences of Ageless Innovators, the BGB has developed popular events including a weekly short story discussion group, trivia nights, improv, and more.

In addition to these activities, the Village has brought the voices and insights of three young professionals onto our Board of Directors.

SERVICES AND REFERRAL Network



The pandemic did not stop the Village from delivering the same quality of services that have become its hallmark.

In 2021, we filled 1,551 service requests including rides, referrals to member recommended professionals and tradespeople, help through a move, tech advice, and much more. We responded to requests as simple as a reliable plumber, to more complex needs such as an in-home companion with experience in dementia care, to help finding a second opinion prior to surgery.

Each individual received personal attention from our professional staff and nearly half of our service requests were fulfilled by volunteers. This value is at the very heart of the Village's purpose — to marshal the goodwill and skills of our community to sustain and help each other.

“The Village has always been there when we needed help.”

These organizations and businesses are an important part of the Village community. They provide ongoing support and collaboration and together, we are building a dynamic resource and voice for people over 50 in Chicago.

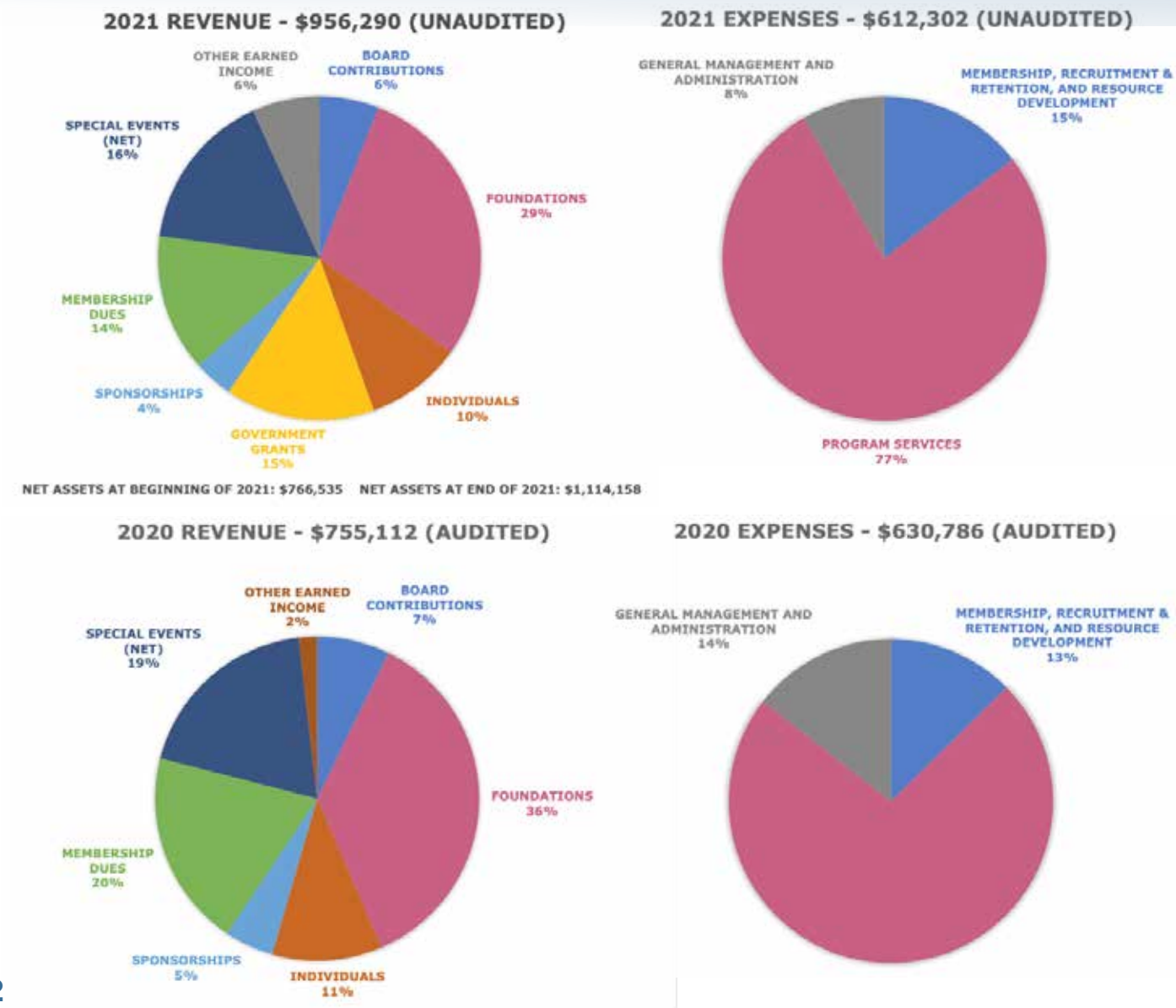
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H.O.M.E.	Town Hall Apartments
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FINANCIAL Summary



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the individuals, sponsors, foundations, organizations, and others who contributed to The Village between January 1 and December 31, 2021.

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RRF Foundation for Aging

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Firefly Fiber Arts Studio	Tamar Newberger	Zen Support
Frances Deli & Brunchery	Northwestern University	Zizi's Cafe
	Piccolo Sogno	Pamela Zolnay

Legacy Society

The following individuals have made provision for the Village in their estate plans. We gratefully acknowledge their thoughtful support in ensuring our future. (*Deceased)

Anonymous	Darcy L. Evon	Catherine Rategan*
Dianne & Tom Campbell	Joan Goldstein	Carol Senderowitz*
Stefanie Clark	Renee Harrison	Michael Spock*
John Craib-Cox	Jayne A. Hultman	Richard Sullivan
Jane M. Curry	Barbara Koren	Liz Ware
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VILLAGE CHICAGO Leadership

Meet Our Officers, Directors, and Staff

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Joan Goldstein	Vamse Kumar Subbiah
Ira Kohlman	Jan Walters
Molly Matthias	Mel Washburn
Therese Meike	Joyce Winnecke
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As of October 31, 2021



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Callie Alton, *Director of Membership & Engagement*
Laurel Baer, *Director of Strategic Initiatives*
Megan Byrd, *Director of Programs & Communications*
Betty Dayron, *Social Work Field Instructor*
Niki Fox, *Director of Health, Wellness, & Member Services*
Sarah Grossman, *Social Work Intern*
Jen A. Hurd, *Director, Brain Health & Memory Loss*
Susan Wakula, *Director of Finance, Administration, & Development*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Co-Chairs: Ira Kohlman and Linda Randall

Healthcare & Wellness Initiative

Co-Chairs: Niki Fox and Ruth Ann Watkins

Brain Health/Memory Loss Advisory Board

Chair: Jen Hurd

Investment Committee

Chair: Nancy Felton-Elkins

LGBT+ Committee

Chair: Peggy Walker

Life 3.0

Chair: Tom Eley

The Future of Work

Co-Chairs: David Baker and Sandra Tice

Membership Engagement

Co-Chairs: Mary Ann Schwartz, Mel Washburn and Glen Gabert

Program Committee

Chair: Megan Byrd

Research Committee

Co-Chairs: Neelum Aggarwal, M.D. and Angie Levenstein

CIRCLES

These social groups are comprised of Village members and friends who organize activities in their neighborhoods, although attendance is often open to all Village members.

Lakeview Circle Organizers:

Renee Harrison, Mary Ann Schwartz, Judy Spriggs, and Dian Weddle

Near North Circle Organizers:

Callie Alton, Eloise Barron, Lynne Carpenter, Carol Hltchie, Joan Solbeck, Dick Sullivan, and Jonathan Tague

Greater Edgewater Circle:

In formation

Professional photography by Christina Canright, Canright Communications
Back cover art by Kay Smith, Artist Laureate of Illinois, Village member



COURTESY OF KAY SMITH

The Village Chicago
2502 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614

773-248-8700 phone
773-248-8181 fax
info@thevillagechicago.org

DESIGNED BY KATHY KRICK