



Impact Report

2020



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Meet the Team



Christine Happel, Director

Christine is an Ohio native who has always been community minded. She completed her Masters of Social Work at The Ohio State University with a focus on Community and Social Justice. As the Director of Village in the Ville and The Greater Columbus Network of Villages, she is able to blend her passion for community building with her skills as a social worker to make aging in community possible.



Phoebe Allebach, Associate Director

Phoebe moved to Columbus after receiving her Bachelor's degree from Dickinson College and working in the Activities Department at a healthcare facility in Pennsylvania. She served as Village in the Villes's former AmeriCorps VISTA and started as their Associate Director in July 2020. She is excited to continue her work developing programs, creating intergenerational opportunities, and recruiting new members and volunteers.



Marie Rineveld, Services Coordinator

Marie is a Master of Social Work candidate at The Ohio State University and a Clinical Therapist intern at Syntero. She moved to Columbus in 2010 from Kalamazoo, where she studied Organizational Communications and Psychology at Western Michigan University. As Services Coordinator, Marie is our members' trusted link to going places and getting things done!



William Needleman, AmeriCorps VISTA

William received his master's degree from The Ohio State University in communication and survey research, served as a VISTA in 2019-20 for a Akron-based nonprofit, and is currently completing his second AmeriCorps year with Village in the Ville. His efforts are focused on event planning, grant research, and volunteer recruitment and retention.

Reciprocity

Advocacy



Our Mission:

To cultivate a community of older adults rooted in connectedness and compassion that celebrates diversity and promotes reciprocal volunteer assistance.



Our Vision:

A network of neighbors flourishing not only in their homes, but in community, as they age.

Collaboration



Benevolence



Flexibility

To our neighbors,

2020 was perhaps not the year any of us anticipated, but it was a year we were prepared to weather. In April, early on in the pandemic, Village in the Ville turned 5. Over these last 5 years we have come to know one another, have made friends, laughed with one another, developed new interests, revisited old hobbies, and helped each other through a range of events. So when I say prepared, I mean we had laid the foundation of a truly supportive community network. One that was at the ready when we implemented our friendly buddy check-in system, one that provided helpful feedback regarding members' needs, and one that has been encouraging during a challenging time.

I want to take the time to thank each Village member, volunteer, and supporter for their generous contribution to this network, because you each have offered something. The pandemic has cast older adults in an especially vulnerable light. While safety is paramount, I want to shine a brighter light on you all, as people who are resilient, thoughtful, compassionate, and just darn good neighbors. So thank you and know I believe, we are going to get through this.

Kindly,

Christine Happel
Village in the Ville Director



18

new members in
2020



25%

increase in membership
between 2019 and
2020

92%

of surveyed members
are confident about
aging in their homes



The many benefits of being a member



receive help at home



learn something new



meet new people



access preferred providers



give something back



be a part of a community

"Through the Village, I learn about issues, resources, and tips from people in my generation and in my neighborhood!"

BETSY, AGE 71



"Village in the Ville has made such a positive impact in my life! I have enjoyed potlucks and had the opportunity to provide volunteer services to other members."

CINDY, AGE 61

"I would not be able to age in my home if not for the Village."

MARY, AGE 92



SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS



In 2020, we are able to provide the support to ensure our members stay healthy, safe and cared for with the help of our volunteers. Our active volunteer base grew in 2020 through the involvement of OSU student service organizations, Girl Scout Troops, and K-12 students. We also recruited volunteers through Facebook and Volunteer United, and were supported by over a dozen more Village members, who newly volunteered in 2020.



In response to the pandemic, we needed to reshape our services to meet CDC guidelines. Many of our services became contactless: volunteers delivered groceries, instead of taking a member shopping; friendly visits became friendly phone calls. We established a Village Buddy system through our website Helpful Village. Eight Village Members volunteered to make regular phone calls to fellow Village members to ensure they were doing well. Many new Village friendships formed as a result of this service.

We expanded benefits for Village volunteers. Monthly, since September, our organization has invited volunteers to two recreational member events and distributed a volunteer newsletter. We have introduced volunteers to our community through monthly volunteer spotlights since November.

38%

of all services provided
were companionship
related



435

Buddy Check Ins
Completed



13,670

Total Volunteer Hours



70 +

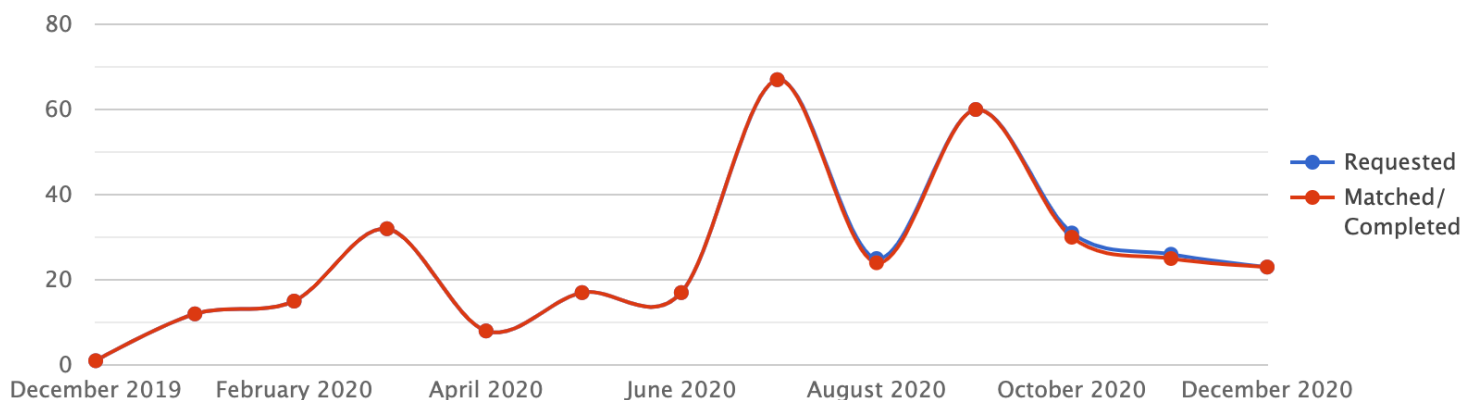
New Volunteers



240

total services
provided to
members

Number of Services in 2020



401

Events and programs
offered in 2020



82

Emergency Kits
Supplied to Members



1/4

of events were health
and wellness focused

PROGRAMS

Our ever-evolving social calendar reflects the interests, skills, and passions of our members. In 2020, we offered many new programs including a pen pal program, watercolor workshops, Emergency Preparedness Workshops, and gatherings for beginners at Mahjongg.

When the pandemic vastly changed the way we interact with each other, we were able to adapt our programming to meet the needs of our members as well as the safety guidelines of health experts and the CDC.

We went virtual for the majority of our gatherings and Zoom became our meeting place for activities like: Coffee and Chats, Book Club, Craft Nights, Happy Hours, Classical Music Club, Village Foodies, and an Intergenerational Art Series hosted by two teachers at the Columbus College of Art and Design.

& EVENTS

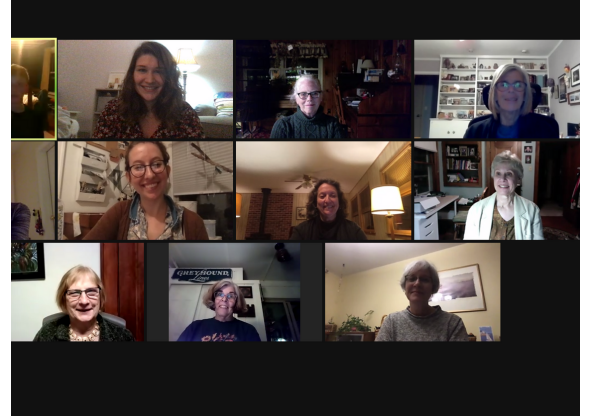
In the summer months, we were able to host small, in-person events outdoors, including: bike rides, picnics in the park, and Six Feet A Parties. We took advantage of Can't Stop Columbus' Curbside Concert Series and from May to October, sent concerts featuring local artists to many members. These concerts were special way for us to remind our members how much they are appreciated.

To combat loneliness in the winter, we grouped members into 'quarenteams' or 'pods' of four to five people to first meet virtually and get to know each other, until they feel comfortable in safely meeting in person.

In addition to our Village-hosted events, we looked to other organizations and establishments, like OSU College of Arts and Sciences, Kirwan Institute, Senior Planet, and others, to offer a wide range of events for members to engage in.

47

older adults and students signed up for the pen pal program



12

new types of virtual clubs, programs, and events offered



83%

of surveyed members feel less lonely and isolated because of VitV

The C-Loop

The first community circulator, or C-Loop, launched in Columbus on November 5, 2019. The C-Loop was the first of its kind in Columbus to offer free transportation to popular destinations around Clintonville-Beechwold every Tuesday for adults over 50. In 2020, over 50 riders registered. Many riders reported that using the C-Loop each week was a valued way to get out and socialize.



We're no longer just aging in our homes; we're aging in community!



Necessity Bag Program

Every Friday from Mid March to July, Village in the Ville and CRC staff and volunteers unloaded thousands of pounds of food which were then packed in bags and delivered to older adults every Tuesday and Thursday. With the help of the Clintonville-Beechwold CRC, Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County, and countless volunteers, over 4,000 bags of shelf-stable food and toiletries were delivered to older adults in 46 different zip codes in Franklin County.

SPECIAL STORY: ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

6 MONTHS

10 VILLAGE
MEMBERS

50+ INTERVIEWS

"My favorite part about this project was getting to meet a young person from another country who was just as interested in meeting an "elder" from another country! We clicked immediately and each gained insight from the other's perspective."

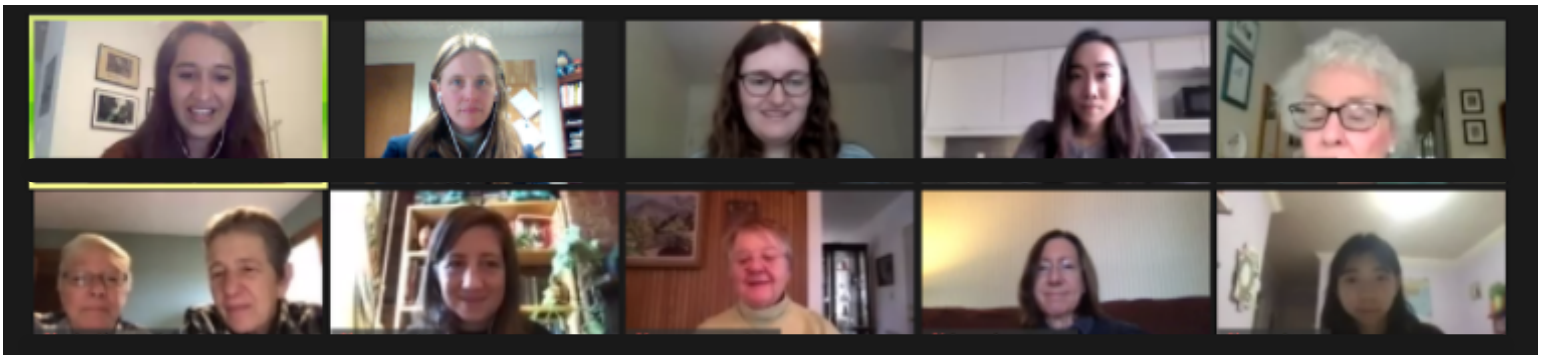
MaryEve Corrigan

"We learned a lot about each other, which was interesting because we have been together for almost 45 years and thought we knew everything. Talking via Zoom one hour each week helped us get through the Pandemic because it gave us something different to do on a regular basis. What we came to realize is that our lives are history."

Pat Semmelman and Freddie Weeks

In June 2020, Village Director Christine was approached by a New York Times journalist, Alexa Mills, and a professor at the University of Toronto (U of T), Aditi Mehta, with an invitation for our Village to participate in an oral history project. As the pandemic changed how many of us went to work and school, they saw an opportunity to virtually connect the U of T students with older adults across the border. Students and Village members were matched up and had weekly virtual interviews, which covered a wide range of topics: from love stories and childhood memories to race, religion, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The project started in late summer and lasted until December, when all participants came together to meet and listen to the students' presentations and reflections.

The project proved to be valuable in many ways: students were able to use these interviews to inform their research; Village members had a source of connection in an especially isolating time; and both students and Village members left the project with a new international friendship.



Thank you for your continued support!

Let us know how we can better serve you in 2021.



Village in the Ville Board Members:

Jay Blakeslee
Patsy Deerhake
Kathy Grannan
Liz Harzoff
Kitty Horan
Bev Meyers
Elise Porter
Betsy Smalley
Guy Smalley
Beth Stewart-Magee
Nat Thompson

Village in the Ville Staff:

Christine Happel
Director
Phoebe Allebach
Associate Director
Marie Rineveld
Services Coordinator
William Needleman
AmeriCorps VISTA
Mahala Baumgartner
Intern