



IMPACT REPORT

2021





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Village in the Ville is a program of the Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center, a social services agency in Columbus, OH.

Photo Credit: Village/CRC staff, Village volunteer Samuel Hartman Phototgraphy

MEET THE TEAM

CHRISTINE HAPPEL, MSW, LSW (THEY, THEM) Director

A variety of lived experiences have demonstrated to me the importance of supportive and caring connections – connections where all involved feel seen, heard, and valued. These experiences led me to complete my Masters of Social Work at Ohio State University, with a focus on Community and Social Justice. Today, as the Director of Village in the Ville and The Greater Columbus Network of Villages, I have the privilege of fostering supportive community for older adults and beyond. In addition to this role, I am an avid gardener, cyclist, and cat lover.



PHOEBE ALLEBACH (SHE, HER) Associate Director

Although my Bachelor's degree is in German studies, my experiences volunteering at numerous assisted living facilities over the past ten years led me to my first job in the Activities department at the Rockhill Retirement Community outside of Philadelphia. It was there I realized that I wanted to focus my career on working with older adults. I moved to Columbus in 2019 to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Village in the Ville, excited by the progressive nature of the Village movement. I became the Associate Director in 2020. I am currently working on my Master's in Social Work at The Ohio State University, occasionally practicing my German, and traveling whenever I get the chance!



MAHALA BAUMBARGER (SHE, HER) Service Coordinator

I used to be an intern with the Village, and I'm very excited that I am able to continue being involved with the program as the Service Coordinator! I recently graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Social Work and am now working on my Master's in Social Work. In addition to Village in the Ville, I'm also a housing specialist at CRC. In my free time, I like to learn languages, create art, and read. I'm currently learning Korean and Japanese!



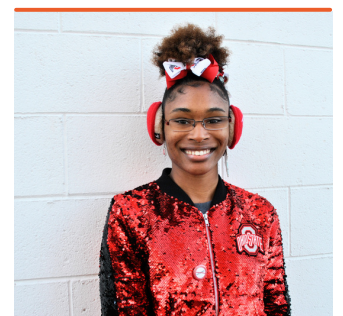
WILLIAM JONES-KLINE (HE, HIM) AmeriCorps VISTA

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, I moved to Columbus, Ohio to serve as one of Village in the Ville's 2021-2022 AmeriCorps VISTAs. Recently, I finished my Master's in Social Justice and Community Organizing from Prescott College. So, now I find I have more time than I know what to do with! Mostly, you'll find me enjoying coffee shops, reading books, and generally having a silly-goose time.



RACHEL WILLIAMS (SHE, HER) AmeriCorps VISTA

I was born in Columbus, Ohio, but raised in Cincinnati and Zanesville, Ohio. I am currently seeking my second degree in Social Work. I have no idea what I want to do in my new major at The Ohio State University, but I do know that I want to make the world a better place. In my free time, I enjoy watching movies, singing, and beach hopping. I also like to learn about different cultures.



Flexibility

Reciprocity

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



A letter from our Director

Christine Happel

Last year, I started this letter noting that 2020 was not the year any of us anticipated. Here I am again wanting to say the same about 2021, as we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic. For the coming year, I am challenging myself to suspend expectation and open my heart and eyes to possibility. This year I hope to focus less on how we navigate ourselves back to the way things were prior to the pandemic and more on how we move forward in new and enriching ways.

I can't do this without first pausing to express gratitude. This past year we tried more new programs, formed a number of new activity groups, and our volunteers provided an unprecedented number of services. These groups would not exist without members and volunteers sharing their interests, time, and skills. Volunteer services are certainly not possible without the generous and caring contributions of time and talents, but it also takes the willingness to accept this assistance.

In the past year, we watched reciprocal, attentive, and considerate relationships deepen. This brings us such joy and encouragement in our work!

Nancy Davis Kho who published "The Thank-You Project," a book about her experiences writing 50 gratitude letters, offers this exercise: "Quickly, think of the five people you want to hug first after quarantine." Then write their names down, she said, because "even carrying around that list is a reminder that you are not by yourself." Thanks to the Village there are over 100 names of different members and volunteers that I could write down and carry in my pocket. I am grateful for each of you.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine Happel'.

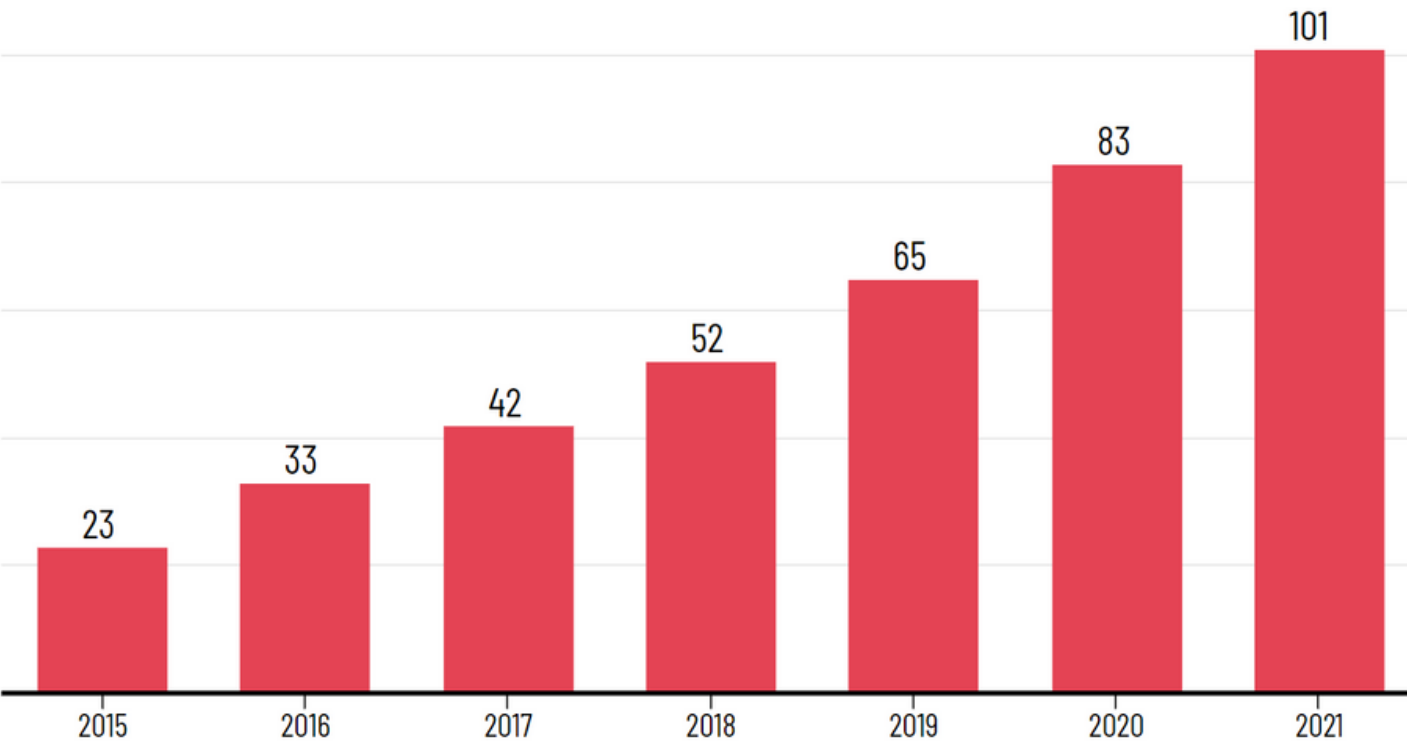
Christine Happel



"I have jokingly commented that Village in the Ville is our church. My husband and I have felt a strong sense of community since becoming Village members, a feeling that we had lost by leaving our neighborhood. Jim and my relationships with our comrades are invaluable to us; everyone's diverse interests, skills, and experiences have truly strengthened our camaraderie."

Patsy Deerhake

MEMBERSHIP



Total Membership Growth 2015-2021

1/3

of members have
belonged to
Village in the Ville
for 5+ years

1/4

of members are
75+ years of age

1/3

of members received
subsidized memberships
through funds from
COAAA

1/2

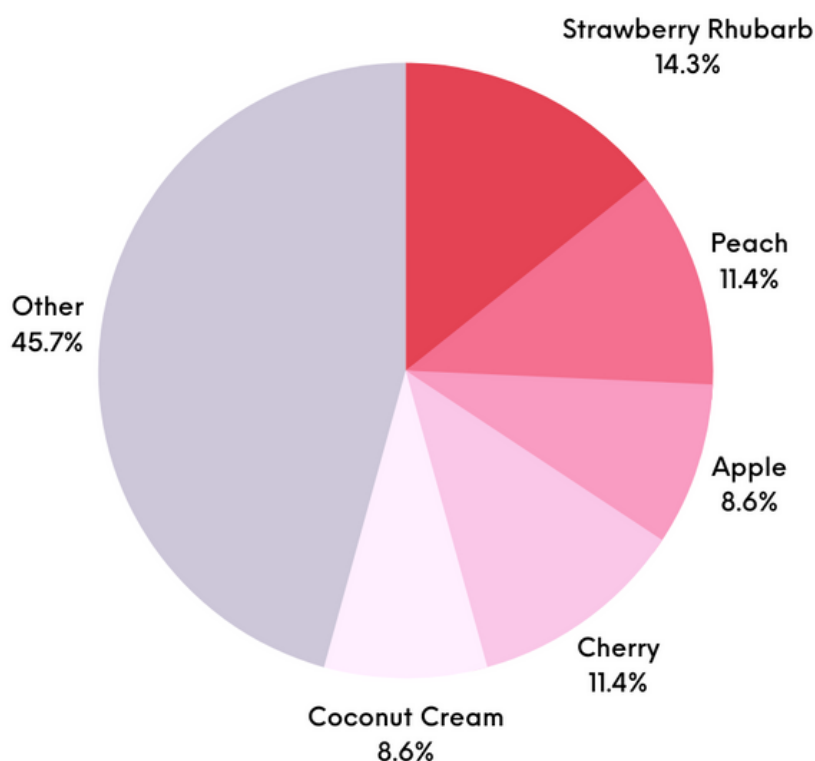
of members received
volunteer services in
2021

Get to know our members better... with a Pie Pie Chart!

We asked our members a very important question: What's your favorite kind of pie? Here's what we found!

The 'other' category
includes:

Lemon Meringue
Blueberry
Mississippi Mud
Pecan
Pumpkin
Banana Cream
Key Lime
Butterscotch Cream
Raspberry
Apple Crumb
Cheesecake
Any Non-Dairy Filling



"Joining the Village was one of the best decisions I have made concerning being able to stay in my home. I use my membership mainly for help with small home repair tasks, gardening, lifting, and toting, and ladder climbing needs. Those tasks are no longer safe for me; without my membership, I would have needed to move into an assisted living facility! To feel like I return the kindness, I volunteer to run members who cannot drive to appointments and happily participate in the pen pal program."

Dede Prince

SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS

Without volunteers, Village in the Ville couldn't possibly achieve its mission and vision of a network of neighbors flourishing in their homes and in their community. This year we engaged a record number of service groups who completed yard care and leaf raking projects for our members: Fisher Serves, Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus Academy, Calumet Christian School, Dedicated Senior Medical, OSU Counselors for Social Justice, OSU Sustainability in Medicine, Columbus Gives Back, Columbus Realtors, and OSU Alpha Phi Omega.

844

SERVICES
PROVIDED TO
MEMBERS

100+

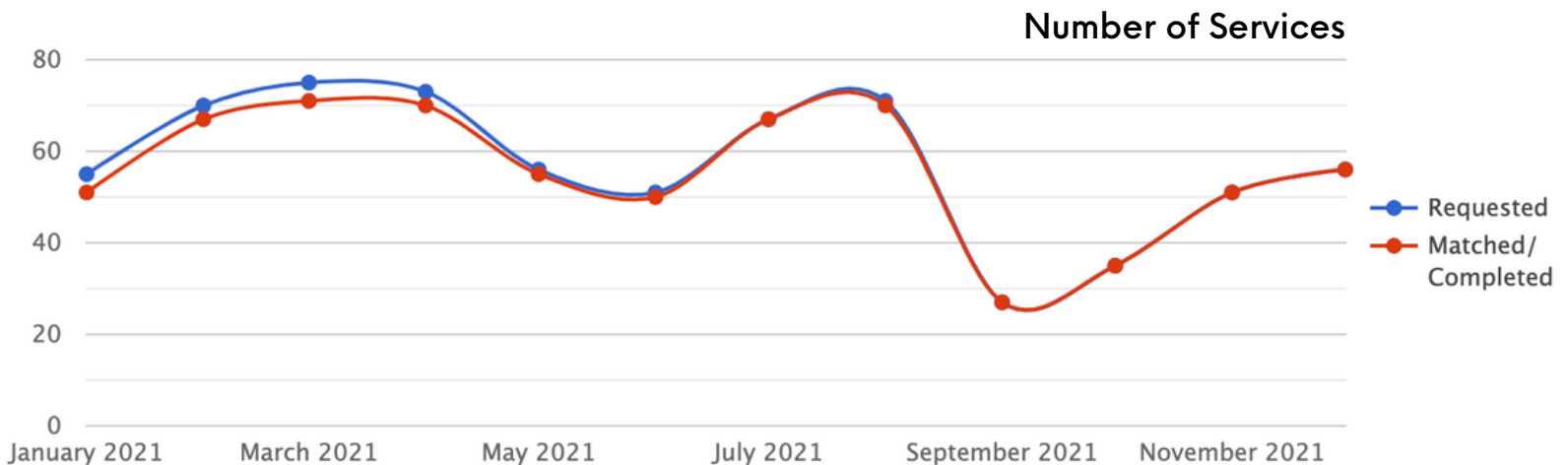
VOLUNTEERS

30

YARD CARE
SERVICES FULFILLED
IN NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER

40%

OF MEMBERS ARE
VOLUNTEERS



EXPANDING OUR MEANS TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY WITH THE VOC



"Being part of the committee gives me an opportunity to connect with members, pay it forward, and actively contribute to outreach efforts. I'm looking forward to getting to know the volunteers better as we work together to support members, break stereotypes about aging and tend to intergenerational relationships."

Heidi Beke-Harrigan

To grow Village in the Ville's volunteer base, and thereby help more of the Clintonville, Beechwood, and University District age-in-place, we have established the Volunteer Outreach Committee (VOC). The VOC currently has nine members, five of which are Village members. Organized by AmeriCorps VISTA William Jones Kline, the committee meets once a month.

The VOC brings Village in the Ville staff members, member volunteers, and non-member volunteers together to devise strategies to grow Village in the Ville's volunteer base. Not only does the VOC help us grow our volunteer base, but it also allows us to honor our principles by providing Village members with another opportunity to guide the Village's operation.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE VOLUNTEER OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

1

Implement
Recruitment
Strategy

2

Personalize
Recruitment
Onboarding

3

Bolster and Build
Interorganizational
Alliances

4

Develop
Volunteer Retention
Strategies



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

1. Our visit to a miniature horse farm, which included a demonstration with the prize winning horses 2. First Walking Club of the year at the Olentangy River trail 3. Back to the country! We took a trip to Yellowood Farm in Canal Winchester to visit baby goats 4. We gathered at Derive Brewery to say goodbye to longtime members, Jim and Patsy Deerhake 5. Summer picnic with City Council President Shannon Hardin and Senior Advocate Fran Ryan to share our perspectives as Columbus residents 6. Birdwatching at the Grange Audubon Center, an outing that brought together all Villages in the Greater Columbus Network of Villages

496

Events and
programs
offered

21

Average
social
connections
per member

11

Regularly
offered virtual
programs

1/4

of activities
were
health/wellness
related

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we meet and connect, our programs and events remain a core component of our mission at Village in the Ville. Through monthly clubs, outings, intergenerational meet-ups, virtual gatherings and more, in 2021 we continued to think creatively to provide the connection that is crucial to the well-being of our community. Our social calendar adapted to reflect new safety considerations. Many typically in-person gatherings went virtual, including our monthly Tech Café with OSU engineering students, Craft Nights, and office hours with staff. One successful virtual event was Classical Music Club, born out of the shared interest of multiple Village members. Distinguished guest speakers and professors from the Westerville Symphony, Capital University, Otterbein University and OSU gave monthly lectures and live performances to our Village members.



Recently, Columbus Symphony musicians visited our Classical Music Club talk about and play excerpts from a concert our Classical Music Club would be attending. In 2022, we hope to have more in-person talks and attend more musical performances! As Classical Music Club member Joyce Miller reflected, **"It's so wonderful to get out and hear live music. It's so uplifting. You feel more part of the world again, being with others and listening to music."**

Inspired by the diverse interests of our members, Village in the Ville established multiple new clubs:

Classical Music Club
Spanish Club
Weaving Club
Philosophy Coffee
Walking Club

Village in the Ville really went places! In 2021, we took a number of field trips in and around Columbus for a change of pace:

Dawes Arboretum
Dayton Art Museum
Preston Family Farm
Harrison Farm
La Plaza Tapatia
Storybrook Ponies Farm
Legend Hills Orchard
Budd Dairy Food Hall
Alum Creek for Kayaking
Grange Audubon Center

Village in the Ville collaborated with organizations and businesses to provide educational programs and events:

Emily Cline with Daphnia Ceramics
Donald Law Office, LLC
Alzheimer's Association
OSU Medical Students
OSU Engineers for Service
American Red Cross
Columbus Division of Fire
Buckeye's Against Alzheimer's

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Baking it a Better World

Intergenerational activities have been a fun, refreshing, and rewarding way to connect and spend time during the pandemic. Activities like the art series, baking boxes, and coloring nights, gave our members a chance to share their expertise and experiences as well as return to their creative side.

Our virtual baking series (featured below) met once a month from June to August. Prior to each meeting, participants received a baking box with ingredients to make a recipe. Throughout the series, we made bread, rice krispie treats, and chocolate chip cookies. Participants made the recipe in their own time and later all met on Zoom to share first tastes together and complete a fun activity. Each box contained doubled ingredients, so that participants could 'bake it forward' and give a batch to another Village member or friend.

These activities provided a simple, though effective means to connect and make true the sentiment that we are more alike than we are different. We are looking forward to continuing them in 2022 and beyond!

What we've done:

- Virtual Read A Thon with Clinton Elementary
- Virtual Bingo
- Virtual Coloring and Hot Cocoa Night
- Virtual Baking Series
- Pen Pal Programs
- Music programs with Columbus Folk Society

What's coming next:

- Storytelling with Thurber House, a nonprofit literary arts center
- Summer Skill Swap Program in collaboration with GrowIN



Memories in the Making

Village members shared their skills and interests this past year with students of CRC's Kids Club, an afterschool and summer program for students K-5.



Jane VanAuken connected Kids Club to the Columbus Folk Society, an organization she's involved in. Local musicians came to Kids Club to teach about their instruments and lead sing alongs. Students were able to share their passion for music and some even brought their own instruments to play along.



MaryEve Corrigan, a former science teacher, taught students about the parts of a plant and then assisted them in planting their own marigolds to take home. All students received marigold seeds to plant in their own gardens. While handing out the seeds, one student exclaimed, "I already have my 'maryeve'!"



Spike Tyler visited Kids Club with a special companion- his therapy dog, Scarlet! Spike taught students all about Scarlet, who had been missing interactions with people during the pandemic. Scarlet made up for it during an afternoon with Kids Club and received lots of hugs and pets!

"I think the opportunity to do real activities with kids is important and FUN. The back and forth conversations about how and why and a million other random comments, theirs and mine, dissolved any imagined barriers."

MaryEve Corrigan



LOOKING AHEAD

VILLAGE RESEARCH PROJECT

The Age-Friendly Innovation Center is collaborating with Village in the Ville on a community-based participatory project to understand how Village members participate in and benefit from their Village membership. In March and April of 2022, two Village in

the Ville members participated alongside members from other local Village programs in three listening sessions to kick-start the evaluation efforts.

This project will help us expand our understanding of the vital role Villages play in our communities.

What is the Age Friendly Innovation Center (AFIC)?

A part of OSU's College of Social Work, the AFIC engages in community-based research that taps into the knowledge and experience of older adults and finds new ways to improve our social, built, and service environments. Their mission is to innovate with older adults through research, education, and engagement to ensure inclusion and build resiliency to make our communities age friendly.

Barbara Peiker, a Village in the Ville member, speaking about her experience meeting with members from other Villages during the listening sessions: **"What I noticed is that people were happy, they were smiling, they had hearts for giving. You know it when you see it. They radiated goodness and wanted to share with other people in their community. We all just want to get the word out about Villages!"**

CARE AND SHARE TIMEBANK



Village in the Ville is now an affiliate of the Care and Share Timebank. The CSTB aims to build a sense of community among its members through mutualism and reciprocity.

They do this by crediting their members for each hour they spend volunteering. These credits can then be used to request and receive services from other Care and Share Time Bank members.

As an affiliate, we can now credit our volunteers for their volunteer work through the CSTB. So, now you can receive "time credits" for volunteering with the Village!

This is a great opportunity for those volunteers who fall outside VitV's service demographic, as they'll now be able to request and receive services from other members of the CSTB.



PROVIDING FOR MEMBERS AFFECTED BY DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S

STEP 1: BECOME A "DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY"

Village in the Ville is working on becoming a Dementia Friendly Community, by engaging in a process to decrease stigma around dementia through education, increase opportunities for meaningful social interaction by establishing a Memory Café, and provide as-needed support to address the changing needs of PLWD.

We will join Dementia Friendly America, a national network of organizations and individuals working to ensure that communities are equipped to support people living with dementia (PLWD) and their caregivers.

This process will also involve: building an Action Team of local volunteers, community partners, caregivers, and PLWD; assessing the strengths and gaps in our community's dementia friendliness; and setting community goals collaboratively. Please reach out if you are interested in taking part of this project!



Learn more at VillageintheVille.org

Find us on Social Media:

Facebook @VillageintheVille

Twitter @VilleVillage

Instagram @Village_inthe_Ville