

SARASOTA *Village*

April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

A lot has transpired since our community meetings in January and February regarding the Sarasota Village. The Exploratory Team has been meeting as well as contacting individuals and organizations around the State of Florida and the country. We are building a strong knowledge base relative to how best to build villages.

As a refresher, villages offer many support services to their members through a volunteer base and a network of community connections that help older adults to live vibrant, purposeful lives while aging in place. Villages are membership-driven organizations powered by neighbors helping neighbors. The graphic below shows services commonly offered by villages around the nation. (Click "download pictures" if you do not see the graphic.)



We received a lot of good information from you during our community conversations, especially from your sharing of your aspirations and interests relative to the village concept. It was exciting to hear your enthusiasm about further strengthening services for older adults. Some of you remarked that the intentions to create partnerships in the community is important. Some of you expressed your interest in having a village in your community, beyond the downtown Sarasota Village area.

Suncoast Villages

As a result of your input and the work the Exploratory Team has been doing, it is clear that rather than create a number of totally separate villages, a regional

umbrella organization would create economies of scale, perform administrative functions, leverage resources, and support communications for member Villages throughout the region. The Suncoast Villages is therefore under development and will be a resource for the development of community-based Villages in the region.

Suncoast CallConnect

Two epidemics have impacted our communities, COVID-19 and loneliness. At the same time an opportunity has come to Suncoast Villages to pilot a software social calling program which we are tentatively naming Suncoast CallConnect. It will have the capability to connect older adults with volunteers. Suncoast Villages will be establishing a platform to use Suncoast CallConnect to facilitate safe connections over the telephone. Once developed, Suncoast CallConnect will be available as a service to members of individual Villages and to the broader community. Future versions could include community health calling programs.

Be Part of It!

We are excited about our forward movement. Paraphrasing an African proverb: It takes a village to raise a village. Whether you are interested in volunteering with the development of Suncoast Villages or an individual village in your community, we would love to hear from you.

We have an immediate need to expand the Communications Team with writers, editors, and graphic designers. Let us know if you might join us by [clicking here](#).

Please contact Deborah Gauvreau at dgauvreau@thepattersonfoundation.org to share any interests, questions, and comments you may have.

We want to acknowledge the investment of [The Patterson Foundation](#) in the development of Suncoast Villages through consulting services and support and the [Village to Village Network](#), which provides a mentor supporting our development process.

Onward!

The Exploratory Team