Examining The Performance of Long-Term Services and Supports System for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers By Emile Gauvreau

In November 2022, AARP released the 2020 Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) State Scorecard, which measures states' performance and rank in providing long-term services and support. The results shared in the report are important to the health and well-being of not only older adults or other adults with chronic physical or cognitive disabilities but also to their caregivers, who, in many instances, are family members. Since UPLIFT Florida Network focuses on Florida, it was important to look at the performance of Florida relative to the Scorecard.

Spotlight: Neighbors Network of Lee County, Inc. By Barbara Shearer

The Neighbors Network of Lee County (NNLC) has launched its website leeneighbors.org. "We've been filling in all the pieces of the puzzle required for a non-profit organization and are eager to move to the next phase in our development," said President Barbara Shearer. Granted 501(c)3 status effective May 5, 2022, the NNLC is using a hub and spoke model, the hub providing administrative and back-office support for all villages formed throughout Lee County.

The first pilot village in the Six Mile Cypress Parkway corridor is located in the geographic area within or near zip code 33966, including communities in census tracts 12.02,
January is National Staying Healthy Month

Celebrate National Staying Healthy Month throughout January by focusing on your well-being and practicing self-care. Embrace a healthier lifestyle by forming healthy routines. To remain active and independent as long as possible, the CDC recommends eating and drinking healthy, moving more, sitting less throughout the day, and getting regular checkups.

Did you know? January is also Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, Glaucoma Awareness Month, and Thyroid Awareness Month.

Volunteers Are Key

Volunteers are the heart and soul of nonprofit organizations. Without them, these organizations would, for the most part, not exist. Who are these wonderful people, and why are they so important? They are you and I and the many people that we know. What do they do? Pretty much everything!

JOIN US

Join us in UPLIFTing Our Community

UPLIFT Florida Network is built on the values of collaboration, equity, excellence, inclusion, and innovation. By analyzing and continuing to improve our hub and spoke model, UPLIFT has great potential to influence the future of all Floridians for years to come by making Florida a healthier, more equitable place to age that is cost-effective for all. Join us and engage with UPLIFT as a volunteer.

Email info@upliftflorida.org if you would like to learn more about our

401.08, and 401.17. The pilot will provide a roadmap for future villages in Lee County. Community conversations will start in January 2023, when the NNLC will begin recruiting members.

The leeneighbors.org website is a rich resource that provides information on the Village movement and the mission of the NNLC. Visitors to the website are asked to help by completing a survey to determine interests of specific neighborhoods, plan focus groups and community conversations, and identify people to serve in different roles during the formation and daily running of villages throughout Lee County.

"Our thanks to the Village to Village Organization, UPLIFT Florida Network, and the many villages across the state and country who have helped us understand the intricacies of launching a village. We’re excited to begin this very new village in this brand New Year," Shearer said.
Most nonprofits start with a group of interested or concerned individuals (volunteers) who give their time to bring an organization into form. UPLIFT is a perfect example of a diverse team with various skills, expertise, and interests. Volunteers are people who want to make a positive impact on the world around them. They work in corporations, other nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies. Many volunteers are retired and have skills that they would like to apply to something meaningful in their area.

The key to retaining volunteers is engaging them in accomplishing the mission of the organizations, providing the information and training they need to do their work, and recognizing them for the work they are doing or have done. Bottom-line, volunteers want to know that they are making a difference in the organization's success because they do!

**UPLIFT would like to thank its volunteers for their contributions to its successes, growth, and evolution as we embark on discovering new possibilities in the New Year.**

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**Building Stable and Sustainable Villages**

By Brenda MacKay

A *village* is a community of belonging that promotes neighbor-to-neighbor support and social connectivity through events, activities, and volunteer-provided services that enable people to remain in their homes. Although most villages are stand-alone, there is a trend toward villages coming together to form a single entity in a hub-and-spoke model. Villages that are part of UPLIFT Florida Network benefit from our [hub-and-spoke model](#). By reducing duplication of operational responsibilities, UPLIFT’s hub allows villages to focus on what really matters: people, programs, and possibilities.

To date, there hasn’t been a detailed study of this new model. That changed with the insightful report covering seven hub-and-spoke organizations throughout the U.S. by Pazit Aviv, Montgomery County Village Coordinator, and Betsy Carrier, Bradley Hills Village. Learn about the characteristics, commonalities, and differences among hub-and-spoke organizations, the elements of the model that support stable and sustainable villages, and the challenges of the hub-and-spoke model. An extensive appendix summarizes the village interviews. Dive into the details of the [Hub and Spoke Villages: A National Survey](#).

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**UPLIFT Florida Network**'s mission is to improve the well-being of individuals and communities via a network of villages and organizations supporting them. For more information or to get involved, contact us at [info@upliftflorida.org](mailto:info@upliftflorida.org).