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# UPLIFT Florida Network

May 2022

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 UPLIFT Formation Team's chairperson Emile Gauvreau: [revgauvreau@protonmail.com](mailto:revgauvreau@protonmail.com).

## UPLIFT Holds First Face-to-Face Board Meeting



**Pictured:** Cynthia Kemp, Brenda MacKay, Emile Gauvreau, Pam Mahoney, Kiarra Louis, Deborah Gauvreau, Rachel Rivlin, Sue Berger

April 6, 2022, marked a special day for UPLIFT Florida Network. The Board of Directors held its first face-to-face meeting. We have been holding all of UPLIFT's organizational meetings using Zoom and telephone for over two years. The live, in-person meeting was an enlivening experience for everyone in attendance, as you can see by the big smiles in the picture above. The board also welcomed its newest member, Cathy Liebllich. Bill Little did attend via Zoom due to a prior commitment. The bulk of the agenda focused on the recent UPLIFT launch meeting on March 22 and the village formation orientation meeting on April 12. Also discussed was the preparation of a grant application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in their Pioneering category, which is a definite fit for UPLIFT as it is forging new pathways in the village formation and management world. Finally, the new board discussed the need to begin formalizing the interim policies and procedures governing UPLIFT's formation process. All in all, the board members were very excited about the work they are doing and will be doing together.

## UPLIFT Florida Network Hosted Its Village Formation Orientation on April 12th



On April 12, the UPLIFT Florida Network hosted a meeting for individuals interested in forming a village and organizations that may be interested in creating a strategic partnership with the Village Network. Emile Gauvreau kicked off the session with a short description of UPLIFT and its mission to improve the well-being of individuals and communities via a network of villages and organizations supporting them. Living well and helping people to age in the community underlies the entire village movement. UPLIFT seeks to be the glue that links people in the community with the activities and services.

To better understand why the participants and the organizations they represent joined the meeting today, Roger Blanken and Deborah Gauvreau posed two questions: What inspired you to join the call today, and what needs do you see in your community related to aging in place?

Participants provided informative, thoughtful feedback:

- The need for an organization that informs and educates people on what resources are available in the community and ties together these critical services – many see UPLIFT taking on this role.
- Laying a solid foundation for the village network by finding experienced partners who have already formed successful villages to collaborate with those who are creating new villages.
- The desire for a professional, well-resourced organization that can provide more than what volunteers can offer, such as training, contributing best practices, and obtaining funding sources.
- The pressing need for a unified voice for the advocacy of older adults in Florida.
- Addressing the challenging language and cultural barriers that the many non-English speaking communities in Florida experience in finding and evaluating available services.

Several participants raised a recurring theme of the critical need for affordable housing and guiding those in need to resources that can aid them. Due to its complexity and unique requirements, it was agreed that housing would be addressed in a separate forum following this call.

Pam Mahoney then described how the UPLIFT Village Network provides a solid foundation that supports villages and an overview of the village formation process that she will be leading in meetings on May 10 and June 14 (and on the second Tuesday of each month thereafter). These monthly meetings will provide a cohort for individuals looking to start a village to learn together from others who have gone before. In these meetings, Pam will use the step-by-step course of action described in UPLIFT's Village Formation Toolkit to provide a road map for individuals looking to establish a village and to make upgrades to existing villages. Other subjects that will be addressed are:

- Advocacy.
- Affinity groups (such as transportation and recruiting volunteers).
- Creating a strategic alliances team.

Emile and Deborah wrapped up the meeting with a Q&A to address the remaining questions, encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsletter, and invited them to join the monthly cohort and strategic alliances team.

**Individuals and organizations who are ready to start creating a village are encouraged to attend UPLIFT's 2022 Village Formation Cohort on Tuesday, May 10, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. You can sign up to attend [here](#).**

**Questions? Please email our Village Formation Co-leads:  
Pamela Mahoney at [p-baron@comcast.net](mailto:p-baron@comcast.net)  
Cathy Lieblich at [clieblich@me.com](mailto:clieblich@me.com).**

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## Welcome Cathy Lieblich!



UPLIFT is delighted to welcome Cathy Lieblich to the team. Cathy has more than 40 years of experience in the field of aging and long-term care, including working at the national level for [Pioneer Network](#) and [National Council on the Aging](#), at the state level for a long-term care provider association, and on the local level for an area agency on aging, a university center on aging, and a private foundation.

Cathy was the founding director of the Florida Culture Change Coalition, one of the first in the country, and currently serves on the coalition's steering committee. She has been involved with [Neighbors Network](#), the village based in Maitland, FL, since before it became a 501 C-3 organization in 2015, serving on the board since then.

Cathy earned a Master of Arts in Social Service Administration from The University of Chicago and a Bachelor

## Thank you, Carol Levy



Carol Levy has been a member of the UPLIFT Florida Network Interim Board since May 2021. An adept planner, organizer, and developer, Carol brought considerable experience and valuable insights to the board, where she focused on developing new villages. An accomplished clinical researcher and college professor in Speech-Language Pathology, she shifted her career aspirations to healthcare management.

Carol developed and oversaw the management of hospital-based rehabilitation units in Massachusetts and served as the first president and CEO of a rehabilitation hospital in Cape Cod – which she helped create.

As a member of UPLIFT's board, she's made valuable contributions to the business model, formation toolkit, and communications team. Carol has recently stepped down from the board and her volunteer work with UPLIFT.



## A IS FOR AGING

Sarasota County Libraries has a collection of books called “A is for Aging,” for young children to shed light on the positive aspects of aging and encourage intergenerational connections. Learn more [here](#).

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## Introducing the Village Movement Series

We are very excited to report a new regular feature for the UPLIFT newsletter. Starting with the June 2022 issue, there will be a column presented in an interview format that will focus on questions such as:

1. Why does the village concept appeal to you?
2. What about UPLIFT Florida Network appeals to you?
3. What surprised you about the process of forming a village?
4. What's the hardest thing about creating a village?
5. Why do we need a strong advocacy voice for aging in community in Florida?
6. What has been your community's response to villages?

We will be interviewing individuals starting a village—from existing villages in Florida and around the country to folks with a national perspective relative to the village movement. We look forward to what we will learn from these conversations with the people in the trenches.

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