



The Villages of Western Mass

- Amherst Neighbors
- Athol Kindness Connection
- Easthampton Neighbors
- Montague Villages
- Northampton Neighbors
- Northfield Neighbors at Home
- Petersham Partners
- Valley Neighbors (Whately, Deerfield, and Sunderland)
- Village Neighbors (Leverett, Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell)

Services

- Rides
- Tech help
- Home repair and maintenance
- Shopping
- Companionship
- Events
- Information and referral

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Age in Place

Home upkeep, running errands, staying connected, and working with home technology can all become harder as we age. But neighbors who have extra time can help, as long as there is a way to do so safely and conveniently. That's why people in several local towns have stepped forward to create "Villages." Villages are networks of volunteers who are vetted and insured and able to help with household tasks. Members call with a request and a call manager then assigns a local volunteer able to help with the task. Village members experience reduced isolation, increased independence, and enhanced purpose of life.

MORE THAN

430

VOLUNTEERS

SERVED

5,961

MEMBERS

ACROSS

20

COMMUNITIES.

"The volunteers who drove me to appointments were warm and friendly. I do not have to be concerned any more about how I will get to any appointment. Thank you very much."

Scan or click for a directory of local Villages:



Local Solutions for Local Challenges

The biggest obstacles to aging in place are transportation, managing a home, and social connections. These are supports that are best provided close to home, by friends, family, and neighbors. Villages accomplish this using programs developed for residents, by residents.

Low cost, high returns

By leveraging volunteers, Villages are able to provide excellent services at low cost, saving the state money on housing, healthcare, and transportation. Primary costs include insurance, marketing, and sometimes part-time staff (depending on the number of people served). In our area, Village annual budgets range from \$2,000-50,000. Most want to avoid charging membership fees to ensure service is equitably available. They fundraise to cover costs, but they need sustainable funding to keep them going as the aging population in our area grows more quickly than in other areas.

How you can help

- Advocate for sustainable funding sources for Villages
- Promote and attend Village events
- Refer prospective members, volunteers, or board members to their local Village
- Visit ValleyNeighbors.org/Villages to learn more or get involved



*“In rural communities, **Villages offer transportation solutions** where for decades there has been none.” -LifePath, Area Agency on Aging for Franklin County and the North Quabbin*

Services Delivered in 2023	
Round-trip rides	1,115
Calls and social visits	760
Homes or yard jobs	497
Grocery shopping trips	139
Villages in our area are growing an average of 21% per year.	

“Villages are instrumental in helping people remain in their homes and independent in their communities.” - Ilene Henshaw, AARP, Department of Government Affairs.