



Enhancing the lives of people 50 and over in central Boston
...in your own home ...in the neighborhood you love
74 Joy Street Boston, MA 02114 617-723-9713 beaconhillvillage.org

What is the Village?

The Village is an innovative nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people 50 and over in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, West End, and surrounding neighborhoods. Founded by community residents, the Village provides services and programs that enable you to live a healthy and meaningful life – in your own home, in the neighborhood you love.

Through partnerships with proven providers, the Village offers its members preferred access to social and cultural activities, exercise opportunities, and household and home maintenance services, as well as medical care and assisted living at home.

Member Benefits

Wellness Options

- Exercise classes*
- Discounts at local health and fitness clubs
- Personal trainers, discounted
- Access to MGH Senior Health practice*
- Home healthcare providers, discounted
- Wellness seminars by experts*
- MGH Executive Registry: access to healthcare internationally
- Geriatric care management for members and loved ones

Transportation

- Rides for grocery shopping*
- Member-discounted limo and taxi services
- Hospital/Doctor-prescribed rides*
- Rides to anywhere, anytime

Household Tasks and Service

- Home repairs and adaptation
- Household tasks: cleaning, cooking, organizing
- Routine cleaning and heavy clean outs

Computer assistance
Home office: bill-paying and financial organizing

Meals and Groceries

Weekly transportation to grocery stores*
Referrals for catering services: delivery or home preparation
Member-discounts at local restaurants, luncheon club

Social, Cultural and Special Event

Private tours to museums and art shows
“Conversations with...” Intimate evenings with Boston notables*
Trips for BHV members to concerts, and cultural events in the region
Educational seminars
Travel club, singles, film and lunch and dinner group*

Questions posed to “Other Villages” around the nation, and some answers:

I. How did you start your project?

- A. Saw an article in the AARP magazine
- B. Wife went door to door telling people about the concept
- C. Asked a local newspaper to carry a story about the concept
- D. Sent a person to BHV to learn how to set it up
- E. Armed with BHV information, we set up two neighborhood meetings
- F. We invited 12 interested people to talk about setting it up and one man raised his hand to say that he would dedicate 12 months of work to the project if others would do the same. All 12 did commit
- G. The organizing group held a neighborhood kick-off party and 150 attended. Eventually only 40 signed up
- H. We formed a 501 (c) 3
- I. We have no paid staff. We have 35 volunteers
- J. We received a \$20,000 grant and bought furniture, computer and phone. This was a mistake since nobody ever comes into the office since all inbound calls are routed to volunteer’s homes where they are answered (\$150/mo in a local church complex)
- K. After two years of work, we have 110 paying individuals and households
- L. It took us about two years to get going
- M. We charge \$100/person/year and \$200/household/year
- N. We now have a \$12,000 grant to complete a survey to verify that our village is serving a need
- O. We purchased insurance from the Nonprofit Insurance Alliance Group in Santa Cruz, CA, 800-359-6422
- P. We perform a Livescan Criminal Background check on all volunteers

II. What were your top 5 Critical Success Factors (CSF)?

- A. Visit BHV or other similar successful model
- B. Get the local newspaper to run articles about the project
- C. Go door-to-door and friend-to-friend to find support
- D. Get volunteers to commit to 12 months of their time to launch the project.
- E. Set up a 501 (c) 3 or a Mutual Benefit Association

III. What were your top 5 obstacles to overcome in the beginning?

- A. Find enough volunteers to do the work
- B. We should have performed a survey before we organized
- C. Getting the word out to the community that a village is being organized
- D. Deciding upon the vision of the group – is this to be a neighbors-helping-neighbors group or an economic development exercise
- E. How much to charge for membership