

Aging in Place -- Carolina Villages expands services

Carolina Villages, a local nonprofit that is part of the national village movement, provides support to residents in areas of Orange, Chatham and Durham Counties who wish to remain in their homes as they age. There are now two membership levels for households and individuals, and an expanded area served by Carolina Villages.

Full Membership is open to residents age 62 or older and they receive access to all service and programs including a range of services provided by Volunteers, who have a background check and receive orientation and supervision. Examples of these services include transportation to/from doctor appointments, assistance following a hospital stay, grocery shopping, and help with small home projects. Full members also receive referrals from the Vetted Vendor list when professional help is needed. There is always follow up with members who have received services to ensure quality is maintained. Additionally, members may participate in the Social and Cultural activities, and have access to the One-Call resource of the staff of gerontologists.

The new **Associate Membership** is a less costly form of membership open to those who do not need the full range of services at this time but would like to be part of the village and access to limited services. Associate members receive referrals to Vetted Vendor, may participate in all Social and Cultural activities, and have access to the One-Call resource of the staff of gerontologists.

Another significant change for Carolina Villages is an **expanded service area** beyond Carrboro and Chapel Hill zip codes to new areas of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties. The **map** that shows the new area covered can be found on www.carolinavillages.org .

Carolina Villages is part of a rapidly growing national movement to support older adults who wish to remain independent and safe in their own homes as they age. There are now 190 villages operating across the country with 185 in development. UNC Chapel Hill professors Jim Johnson and Allan Parnell say that there is a reason for the success of the village model. In their report to the Duke Endowment, “Aging in Place in the Carolinas,” they found that seniors do best when they live in their homes as long as possible.

(<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article31129763.html#storylink=cpy> August 2015)

More information is available on the website www.carolinavillage.org and interested people may contact Mandy Summerson Executive Director, executivedirector@carolinavillages.org or 919.960.1941.