

Hello CVL Supporters,

I had a delightful conversation recently with a Lawrence senior. She spoke with pride of securing a comfortable home, the freedom of no mortgage payment and time in retirement to enjoy the many activities Lawrence offers.

She recognized the challenges of maintaining her home and could use the help of someone with a bit more agility for chores around the house and yard. She was not about to let arthritis alter her choice of living arrangements and the life she enjoys here in Lawrence.

After years of organizing, I was proud to offer this senior immediate help. She became a member of Community Village Lawrence, joining 15 other members qualifying for volunteer assistance. Each member can call the CVL office and request help, help for rides around town, help for home maintenance or even companionship time to chat with a new acquaintance.

Yes, Community Village Lawrence has achieved a transition milestone in 2016. Since the first of the year, CVL has been linking neighbors who volunteer service with members who seek help.

Help spread the word that CVL is up and running. Many, like yourself, are responding to the grass roots vision of neighbors helping neighbors and stepping forward to join in. Participation is growing as CVL enhances the lives of a growing number of seniors. Call the CVL office (785.505.0187) and speak with Heather Cook, our newest VISTA program coordinator on how you can join CVL's expanding support network.

Best Regards,
Chris Holmer
Board of Directors Chair

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The second annual Taste of San Francisco was bigger and better than ever. The evening events were highlighted by the multi-course seafood menu prepared by the Arterra gourmet chef. Molly Wood spoke to the gathering, relating a personal message of support of seniors. Jeremy Taylor (shown) enticed auction bidders with items donated by generous CVL sponsors and attendees raised approximately \$20,000 for the Village. The event organizers lead by committee chair John LaRocca (shown) have created a captivating event that supporters will be looking forward to next year.

CVL says ‘Goodbye’ to dedicated VISTA

Ben Tasner, AmeriCorps VISTA Program Coordinator 2015-2016, wrapped up his year of service in February. He has, however, continued to demonstrate his dedication to CVL as a volunteer before his departure to his home state of California in April. Ben has contributed to growth of services, volunteer recruitment and training, fund development and much more. CVL wishes Ben the best as he transitions into something new.



Ben (far right) promoting CVL at a local radio program in 2015 along with board members John Hodge (far left), Mary Johnson, and Perlita Torres, former AmeriCorps VISTA (both middle right).

Q: What have you learned about working/volunteering for a non-profit?

A: I learned that it takes a foundation of dedicated people to ensure continuity and flexibility. I have observed the many challenges that a non-profit faces, but I have also seen the support that a non-profit can receive when a community truly embraces it. I am amazed by the people who have stepped forward and donated so much time and effort to assist CVL.

Q: What have you learned about aging in place?

A: When I began my year with CVL all I knew about aging in place was the basic concept. Over this past year I have learned about the role that community groups can play in helping a neighborhood or city become more age-friendly and the different factors that enable or inhibit the opportunity for residents to age in place. Aging in place is a personal choice, but at the same time it depends so much on the support of a community. I hope to see continued growth of aging in place because it is beneficial to the individual and also to the community as a whole.



Q: What are your impressions of CVL?

A: I have been blown away by the board members and volunteers who have helped CVL grow to a fully-operational Village. The dedication is inspirational and they have become role models for me. Each person has contributed something unique to help this organization grown. I feel proud of working/volunteering for CVL because the intentions of the organization are honest and well-intended. I think Villages like CVL should exist in every community.

Q: What skills did you develop or build up on during your time with CVL and AmeriCorps?

A: I knew I would learn new skills during my year of service, but I never imagined I would learn this much! I have learned how to network with other community groups, develop services and activities, manage volunteers, orient members and work within the framework of a multi-committee non-profit. Everything I have learned will greatly assist me in whatever I choose to do next.

Q: Will you remain involved with CVL?

A: Most certainly! This organization is like a family, which is evident by the continued involvement of previous AmeriCorps VISTAs. Even though I will be living in California I plan to stay involved as a consultant and volunteer, assisting however I can. I feel a deep connection to CVL and look forward to attending the annual fundraising extravaganza, "A Taste of San Francisco," next February.



Ben (right) and board member Chris Holmer (left)
at a Town Hall event hosted by CVL.

Upcoming Events

04.06 - 4:30-6:00pm Resource Expo @ Free State High School

04.13 - 5:00-7:00pm Volunteer Appreciation Event

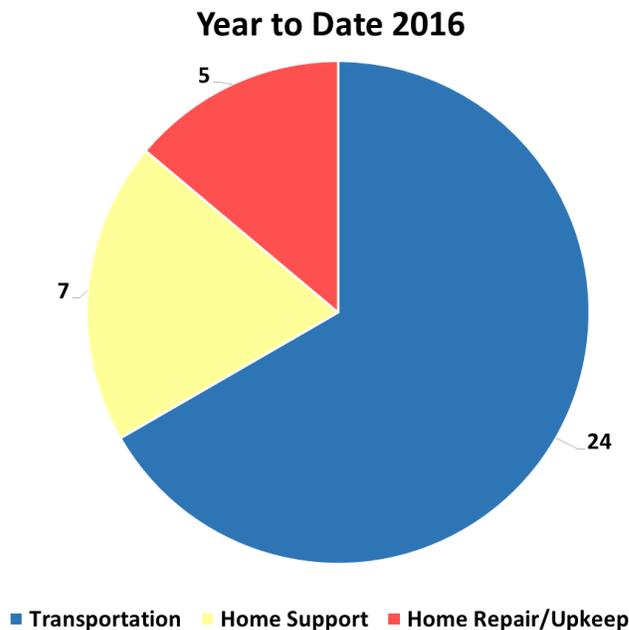
@ Villa Clubhouse

04.23 - 11:30am-4:00pm Earth Day Celebration @ South Park



By the Numbers

- 21 Village members as of April 1, including full memberships and telephone reassurance members
- 28 Vetted volunteers
- 43 Volunteer hours for March
- 36 Services total provided by volunteers so far



Be a part of the village! For more information on volunteering, email Heather Cook, AmeriCorps VISTA Program Coordinator, at info@communityvillagelawrence.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Committee Member

A CVL committee member is someone who cares about the Lawrence community and is interested in playing a role in the growth of Community Village Lawrence. Volunteers have the chance to serve on one of eight committees, including volunteer, membership, fund development, outreach, finance, services, and organizational support. Full descriptions of each committee can be found at our website.

Direct Service

Volunteer

Do you have skills as a.....

Handyman or driver?

Do you enjoy visiting with others, and helping people to feel safe, secure, and supported in their own home as they grow older?

Would you spending time outside and helping members with....

Lawn care and friendly visits?

These are just a few of the services our members request most; be part of the movement and join the Village as a volunteer!



CVL would like to thank our 2016 sponsors



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