



HOW COULD A Regional Village Coalition HELP YOUR VILLAGE?

*The Power of Community on Every
Level: Lessons Learned From the
Washington Area Villages Exchange*

What WAVE Does and How It Does It

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What Wave Does

- **PROVIDES A FORUM** for Washington, DC area villages to share experience and ideas.
- **HELPS VILLAGE LEADERS AND PLANNERS** and similar organizations improve/expand services and activities that fulfill their vision, missions and goals.
- **SUPPORTS COLLABORATION** by villages and similar organizations with VtV Network and regional senior-serving and intergenerational organizations and agencies.

WAVE Activities

- **EDUCATES THE PUBLIC** on the needs, resources and opportunities of the aging population.
- **SUPPORTS EFFORTS** to make communities livable for those of all ages.
- **PUBLICIZES VILLAGES** and methods of creating and sustaining them.

How WAVE Grew

- **Formed in July 2009 by 17 representatives of 11 villages and 2 village planning groups**
- **3-member steering committee – 1 from DC, 1 from VA, 1 from MD**
- **Village leaders needed constant reassurance that WAVE didn't want to restrict their autonomy**
- **Months of deliberation over whether to incorporate or become a project of an existing nonprofit organization ended with the incorporation of WAVE in 2012**

Growth Process

- **WAVE has applied for IRS recognition as a public charity**
- **On WAVE's third anniversary (July 2012), all but one of the original 11 villages has survived. The quarterly WAVE meeting: 65 participants including people from 14 village planning groups, 15 of the 16 open villages in the DC metropolitan area, and two village planning groups from further away**
- **Other regional groups are evolving in Massachusetts and the Chicago and San Francisco Bay areas**

WAVE Meetings

- **Quarterly meetings rotating between DC, MD and VA sites**
- **Standard 3 hour format**
 - **30 minutes of networking over continental breakfast**
 - **60 minute presentation and Q&A by outside speakers or by a panel of village leaders**
 - **Break (15 minutes)**
 - **60 minute discussion circles: one for leaders or planners of villages with paid staff and one for those following an all-volunteer model**
 - **15 minute business session**

WAVE Activities

- **Cosponsors educational sessions with other nonprofits such as Leading Age, AARP, local agencies. Topics have included insurance law, fundraising, and ethics & boundaries for volunteers.**
- **VtV Network has agreed to host a public WAVE website, and create a custom page for regional groups inside vtvnetwork.org.**

WAVE Outreach

- **Developed a tri-fold brochure (with a slip insert listing villages in our area) that serves as a generic introduction to our region's village movement.**
- **Give briefings and pep talks to village planning groups throughout DC , Maryland and Virginia**
- **Emails helpful village materials to 200-plus persons.**

WAVE's goal is an enjoyable life for members of all villages!



Why Busy Leaders Join WAVE

- **Gather and share pertinent local information**
- **Offer a safe space to ask practical questions and share answers of each other**
- **Draw on village veterans locally to share information with newbies about what works and doesn't work – especially regarding fundraisers and partnerships**