



Network News: March Madness



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Announcing Keynote Speaker: Rona Kramer

The 2017 National Village Gathering Planning Committee has been hard at work on this year's conference agenda. We're excited to announce that we've already secured our first Keynote Speaker, Rona Kramer, the Maryland Secretary of Aging. Rona is focused on helping older adults live the healthiest lives possible and is a major advocate for the Village model. We look forward to hearing her insights on enhancing the power of aging on November 6th!

Don't miss your opportunity to be a speaker at the 9th Annual NVG as well! Our call for proposals will be open until April 14th, submit your proposal today. [Click here](#) for more information.

Remember, we also have a registration special running through the end of March. Register by March 31st and you'll receive an extra 10% off our early bird pricing. Enter code NVG17EEB on the payment screen. Group rates are available! [Click here](#) for more info and to register today.

Village Stories: Love your Phone Again Villages of Santa Fe

Villages of Santa Fe launched last summer as a virtual neighborhood to provide services to those that want to stay in their homes as they age in the Santa Fe area. However, one of the frustrating things about hosting a virtual neighborhood is that many seniors are not proficient with their computers and phones. Flip phones are still in use and texting is almost nonexistent. Most have a decent grasp of email, but attachments are just too much. So how did Villages of Santa Fe hope to solve this problem of communication without spending a fortune on hiring a tech trainer?

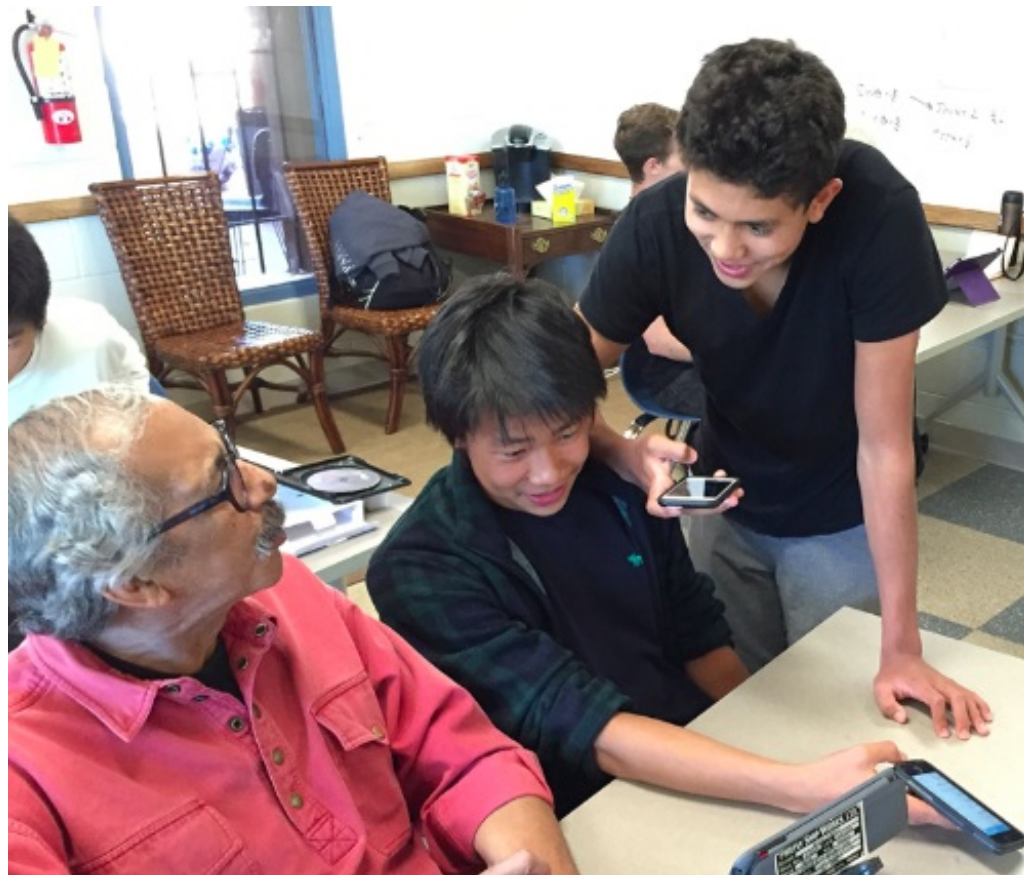
They turned to students - who are the most sophisticated users of technology. The program dubbed 'Cyber Seniors' pairs Village members, one on one, with Santa Fe Prep's TAP students. The TAP (Teen Action Program) at Prep is headed by Eric Rounds. Ambrose Farber, Associate Chair of the Technology department reigns over the Cyber Seniors group, with helpful hints and problem solving tips.

All Prep students volunteer every Thursday from 1:30 – 3:30. Cyber Seniors is a new TAP program and while the Cyber Seniors get proficient on their devices, students are learning valuable teaching skills. Students have learned to slow down the process, making sure their Village member has time to write down the steps, and practice repetition. Village members pay their student-teachers in brownies and cookies.

Basic questions Village members ask include setting up Facebook accounts and using apps such as Viber and Skype. Before the students start teaching, they determine if the tech device is up to date on its operating system. Password protection is greatly encouraged and best practices for keeping safe on the internet and free of viruses are key topics.

Cyber Seniors is a member benefit of Village of Santa Fe and is utilized and valued by many members of the community.

written by Ann Church



Students of Santa Fe Prep with Village of Santa Fe Members
Photo Credit: Marta Harrison

Network Happenings

Every year in March, the American Society on Aging hosts one of the largest conferences on Aging, Aging in America. AiA brings thousands of aging advocates together in Chicago from all over the world to learn from one another about new trends, research and resources in the field of aging. This year, there will be two panels focused on the Village model. The first session on March 20, will be presented by Executive Director, Natalie Galucia, Board President, Mandy Summerson and fellow board member, Joel Shapira. They will be highlighting the growth of the Village Movement. The second session on March 23rd will focus on the latest research findings in the Village Movement and will be presented by Carrie Graham of UCB, Roscoe Nicholson of Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging and Kate Hoepke, Executive Director of San Francisco Village. Thanks to all for spreading word of the Village Movement to this national audience!

Member Benefit Spotlight: Frail Members Call

This month we wanted to spotlight a call that has been going on at the Network for quite some time. The Frail Members Call is lead by Capitol Hill Village's very own Melissa Susser the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Melissa is CHV's Care Services Manager and is also a licensed geriatric social worker. This call is very popular among Village to Village Network members. Members come to the call with questions pertaining to their own Village's issues, success stories, and ideas for how to take care of frail members. Melissa and other Villages share documents and programs and procedures used to take care of frail members. We discuss options and other community resources outside of the Village as well. We are so grateful for this monthly call and really appreciate Melissa and Capitol Hill Village for all of the time and effort they put into this! For more information or to sign up for the Frail Members Call, visit the event calendar on vtvnetwork.org!

Village Shoutouts

ChaiVillageLA was recognized as part of the Milken Institute's Best Cities for Successful Aging initiative.

Below is what was written about them on page 47 of the report:

"ChaiVillageLA adds a faith-based focus to the growing "village" concept of supportive communities for independent aging. ChaiVillageLA is a multigenerational membership network that includes older adults as well as families on Los Angeles' Westside. Launched in 2016 by and for congregants of Temple Emanuel and Temple Isaiah with assistance from a Jewish Community Foundation grant, it takes inspiration from the Hebrew word chai, meaning "life," and focuses on providing resources, services, and companionship to aging adults. All members are expected to volunteer for activities like driving other members to medical appointments, helping with household chores, cooking for the sick, and working on village committees. Social and educational programming for all ages includes walking groups, exercise and cultural trips, book clubs and dances, Shabbat dinners and Jewish holiday celebrations."

[Click Here](#) to view the full report.

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