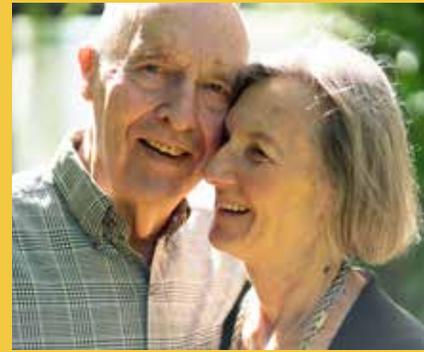




The Village
Chicago

2023

ANNUAL REPORT





Navigating life after 50



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Mission: To inspire connection, purpose, and wellbeing for older adults and their families through the power of community.

Vision: A world where people of all ages and abilities are respected and included.

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FROM THE VILLAGE CHICAGO

leadership

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, The Village Chicago had a solid year of growth and achievement. We navigated a challenging post-pandemic period with all of the strengths of our collective talents, goodwill, and the power of community.

As a collaborative and compassionate network, we had the creative spirit, agility, and enthusiasm to expand key programs, foster engagement, increase membership, and help more people than ever before. We also expanded our family care partner network to include more individuals and families, providing them the vital services and support they need.

Our growing partnerships with community organizations and other institutions allowed us to assemble more comprehensive information to help people make informed healthcare decisions.

We are increasingly recognized as a model for how Village organizations can address the complicated needs of an aging population. In 2023, The Village Chicago was chosen to present at four national conferences hosted by the Gerontological Society of America, the National Center to Reframe Aging, and the National Village-to-Village Network.

Thanks to you, the annual benefit introduced the Village to scores of new people and set new records for fun and donations. And all year long, we were grateful for your gifts, in-kind donations, your time and effort on our behalf — showing the world that we are, in fact, better together.

Warmest regards,
David, Darcy, and Karen



David Baker
*President,
Board Chair*



Darcy Evon
*Chief Executive
Officer*



Karen Terry
*Immediate Past
Board Chair*

the village community



In the Village I found people who are actively involved in living. They are doing things. They have goals, they have strengths.

IMPACT

Number of members (average): 440

Age range: 35-100 years

Number of friends and supporters: 4,500+

Publications:

Weekly Member Memo, Weekly Event Calendar, Monthly Navigator

Reduced fee memberships: 74 (17%)

80% are solo agers

75% of households composed of a care partner and an individual with memory loss

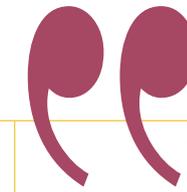
25% are people with disabilities

15% are LGBTQ+

We are a thriving network of individuals, organizations, and supporters — all committed to one another with an unwavering focus on wellbeing for older adults. At the center of the network are our members — a diverse group of Chicagoans who are committed to living their best lives possible.

In 2023, the Village added dozens of new members, achieved greater diversity, and attracted more volunteers, service providers, and donors — greatly increasing the scope and impact of our work.

Through special support from the Next Fifty Initiative, we made further progress in expanding our programming for the special needs of our LGBTQ+ communities.



I'm on a very fixed income, so I appreciate the different levels of membership that are available for people like me.

Reduced fee members: With support from the Old Town Triangle Association, in 2023 we were able to increase reduced fee memberships so that everyone can be a part of the Village community — regardless of ability to pay.



social life



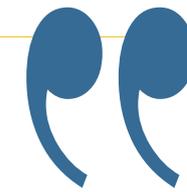
IMPACT

Events and gatherings:
Number of events: 552
Number on Zoom: 378
Number in person: 174

Our social programs help alleviate isolation and loneliness by fostering connections through engagement and fun. We help people build new social networks through a robust schedule of both in-person and Zoom events that include physical activity, intellectual stimulation, and entertainment.

In 2023, we piloted a successful program, *Not in It Alone*, which helps people forge new friendships after retirement.

By monitoring the impact of our social programs through member surveys and on-going feedback we know that people feel more connected, more engaged — and healthier.



I have met so many interesting people along the way in the Village so I'm here to stay as long as I can.



The Village Chicago Annual Benefit is our most important and fun event of the year. "Jazzin' With the Village" was attended by nearly 300 people at the Chicago History Museum. It was the most successful benefit in Village history — raising \$199,000 — surpassing last year's record-breaking results by 22%.

health & wellbeing



Life after 50 is filled with choices and transitions that affect wellbeing. The Village helps people adjust to physical, emotional, and social changes following retirement and in later life. We provide information and tools that enable individuals and families to make informed life and health care decisions with clarity and confidence.

In 2023, we offered programs in six key areas: exercise and nutrition; vision, hearing, and balance; retirement planning; work and purpose; mental health; and chronic illness management.

“I'm starting to think of what my post-retirement and later life will look like and several of these programs are very interesting to me.”



Last year, the Village left an indelible imprint on the lives of Village members by supporting them through health, moving, and end of life transitions — aided in many cases by encouraging the involvement of family or friends.

The Village Chicago leadership and members served as mentors and advisors at MATTER Chicago's second Accelerating Innovation in Aging series with a focus on Caregiver Perspectives on Aging.

We continue to leverage the collective experience and expertise of our community to reinvent responses to the challenges faced by older adults.

IMPACT

Number of health and wellbeing programs: **230**

In person: **45**

On zoom: **185**

Number of Village members helped through life transitions: **92**

memory loss & brain health



The group supports me emotionally to know that I'm not alone, and that there are other people going through the same things that we are as a couple.



Memory Loss

Memory Loss and Brain Health continued to be hallmark programs at the Village. We offered comprehensive information, events, support groups, services, and referrals to individuals and their families. In 2023, the number of inquiries doubled as more people became aware of our programs.

We focus on the individual's and care partner's strengths — not the loss — as the first step in on-going, comprehensive Village engagement and support. Participants in our peer-led, care partner support groups rely on them as “a lifeline” through all stages of the memory loss journey.



Brain Health

To support brain health at any age, the Village utilizes education and lifestyle strategies. In 2023, the Village brought new and exciting information to the community — including programs on brain plasticity, storytelling, movement, art, music, diet, and more.

IMPACT

Number of families supported: **37**
Number of memory loss events: **31**
Number of brain health events: **26**

services, volunteers, & committees



IMPACT

Number of service requests completed: **582**
Number filled by volunteers: **339**
Total number of volunteers: **275**
Health Care and Social Companions
(Allies, Buddies, and Connectors): **27**

“ The staff members spent time talking with me and it almost felt like therapy, trying to get to the heart of what I really needed.”

A spirit of reciprocity permeates the Village community as we offer one another welcome, acceptance, and support. In 2023, we filled a broad range of service requests that included tech support, rides, sources for skilled home care, reliable handyman referrals, and companions for healthcare appointments.



“ Being on a committee is where I made friends that I otherwise would never have met.”

Highly committed and dedicated volunteers provide many of these services within the Village community. Village members also give generously of their time and talent to Chicago's cultural, arts, youth, and service organizations.

Volunteers staff our board, committees, and task forces. They are the creative heart of the Village — developing innovative ways to engage and support our community.

Committees

Executive, Governance, Finance/Investment, Health and Wellbeing, LGBTQIA, Life 3.0, Marketing, Member Experience, Research, Resource Development, Annual Benefit, DEI Task Force, and Bridging Generations Board of young professionals.

a voice for all generations



IMPACT

National exposure: Keynotes at four national conferences and one podcast
Bridging Generations Board: 78 alumni; 65+ events
Ageless Innovators: 500 alumni and 26 special events that drew hundreds of attendees
Turn the Page on Age: Millions of impressions from radio, transit, and outdoor media; five feature stories in local media; extensive social media coverage

It has never been more important for all voices to be heard.

The Village works to combat ageism and other forms of exclusion by fostering intergenerational connections and by bringing diverse people together. Our programs attract national interest and are funded by RRF Foundation for Aging, the Helen Brach Foundation, and Catherine Grahn.

Bridging Generations Board

This group of young adults plans events and activities that people of all ages can enjoy

together. In 2023, they served as volunteers, hosted trivia nights, intergenerational dinners, and a weekly short story discussion group.

Ageless Innovators

In partnership with Chicago Innovation and now in its sixth year, this thriving, cross-generational, co-mentoring program brings innovators of all ages together to learn from one another's experience and perspectives. They define best practices which demonstrate the value of age-integrated work teams.



Turn the Page on Age

This multifaceted awareness campaign was developed in collaboration with the Chicago Innovation Foundation. The program focuses on dismantling ageism at work, in the doctor's office, and in the community.

2023 activities culminated in "Uniting Generations," where we presented Turn the Page on Age Awards to financial expert Terry Savage; Sun-Times Columnist Mary Mitchell; Joe & Bella, Hellowiz, and the American Society on Aging. In addition, a thought leader panel discussed the promise of intergenerational workplaces.



Trailblazers

Our annual Trailblazer Awards bring to the community those who are leading the way in the new understanding of aging. In 2023, we recognized these changemakers: Tracey Gendron, PhD., whose book, *Ageism Unmasked* explores the roots of age bias; Drs. Jonathan and Sandy Siegel Miller, who founded Sounds Good! And Good Memories Choirs for older adults; and to DePaul University for fostering age-inclusive communities where all can thrive.



Because of our different ages, it is in this community that I find a new outlook, grounding, and inspiration.

sponsors, partners, & collaborators

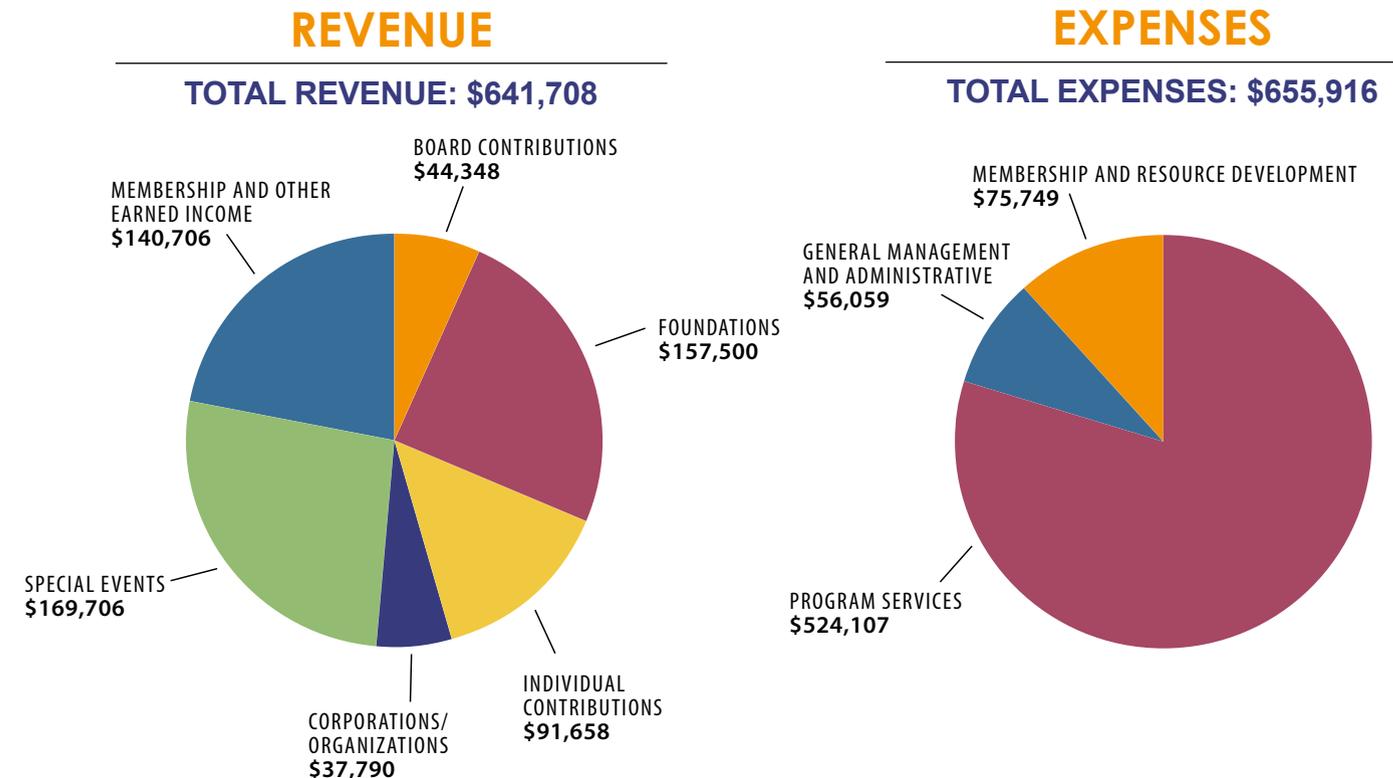
We are grateful to our annual sponsors and our many partners and collaborators for their important contributions to the Village community. They serve as experts, referral partners, offer programs, and freely share their time and fresh perspectives.

Expanding partnerships with community organizations and institutions provided exciting new opportunities for members. These include universities, health facilities, arts and cultural organizations, museums, music and theater venues, faith based organizations, and others.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
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| DePaul University | Ravenswood Manor Neighborhood Assn. |
| Disability Lead | Reeling Film Festival |
| Dutton Casey & Mesoloras, Elder Law Attorneys | Rush University Medical Center |
| Facing History and Ourselves | SAGECare |
| Frameworks Institute | SHARE Network Chicago |
| Gerber/Hart Library & Archives | Sounds Good! & Good Memories Choirs |
| Gerontological Society of America | Jill Stein |
| Greater Chicago Food Depository | Steven Rosofsky Moving Pictures |
| The Guild of the Chicago History Museum | The Third Space Community Center |
| The HAP Foundation | Town Hall Apartments |
| Heartland Alliance | University of Chicago |
| H.O.M.E. | University of Illinois at Chicago |
| | VA Medical Center |
| | Village to Village Network |
| | Vitalize Home Therapy PLLC |
| | Wintrust Old Town |

financial summary

2023 Financials — (Unaudited)



NET ASSETS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR: \$1,066,972

NET ASSETS AT THE END OF THE YEAR: \$1,121,147



donor roll 2023

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the individuals, corporations, foundations, organizations, and others who contributed to The Village Chicago between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

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 Women & Children
 First Bookstore

THE VILLAGE CHICAGO

leadership

Meet Our Officers, Directors, and Staff

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 Darcy L. Evon, *CEO*

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*Term ended October 2023



OFFICE TEAM

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 Kate Spelman, *Director of Programs & Communications*
 Ashley Walker, *Volunteer Manager*
 Susan Wakula, *Director of Finance*



“It gives me a great sense of hope and calm to know that there is a place like The Village Chicago that people can turn to as they age for resources, for community, for support, and also just to have fun.”

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