



 **The Village**  
Chicago

2022

REPORT

ANNUAL



**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.

## “NAVIGATING LIFE AFTER 50”

# CONTENTS

### TABLE OF

Letter from Leadership . . . . .	1
By the Numbers . . . . .	2
The Village Community . . . . .	4
Social Life . . . . .	6
Health and Wellbeing . . . . .	10
Brain Health/Memory Loss . . . . .	12
Leading the Way . . . . .	14
Connecting the Generations . . . . .	16
Work and Purpose . . . . .	18
Services and Referral Network . . . . .	20
Sponsors, Partners and Collaborators . . . . .	21
Financial Summary . . . . .	22
Donor Roll . . . . .	23
Leadership . . . . .	28



## FROM THE VILLAGE CHICAGO LEADERSHIP

**Dear Friends,**

Thanks to you, The Village Chicago had another remarkable year of growth and achievement. We have a new board president, new programs, and fresh insights about the many paths to wellbeing and longevity.

We learned that a positive view of age can boost our health and vitality as well as improve memory, hearing, and even self-esteem. This led us to develop more programs that enliven social life, promote health, and help people find purpose.

We are focused on building a caring and connected community across age, race, class, gender, and ability. We are grateful to the donors who support these initiatives — including the NextFifty Initiative, Helen Brach Foundation, RRF Foundation for Aging, Chicago Innovation Foundation, and several generous individual donors.



Our Brain Health/Memory Loss programs continue to attract new members. We offer meaningful engagement for those with memory loss, as well as life enhancing activities for family care partners.

We are a thriving intergenerational force, working to achieve a society where people of all ages and abilities are included, appreciated, and engaged. Thank you for your support and for being champions of older adults.

Warmest regards,

**David Baker**  
*President, Board of Directors*

**Darcy Evon**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Karen Terry**  
*Immediate Past President*





# THE VILLAGE CHICAGO BY THE NUMBERS

**VILLAGE COMMUNITY:** In 2022 we averaged **450** members and **4,200** family, friends, and supporters living in Chicago, suburbs, and out-of-state

**NUMBER OF COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES: 13**

Executive, Governance, Health and Wellbeing (includes Brain Health/Memory Loss), Investment, LGBTQIA, Life 3.0, Member Experience, Program, Research, Resource Development; DEI, Thought Leaders and Trailblazer Task Forces

**BRIDGING GENERATIONS**

**BOARD:** A group of young professionals who offered **48** intergenerational Village programs in 2022

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:**

**4** full time; **5** part time

**2022 REVENUE:**

**\$693,534** (unaudited)

**2022 VILLAGE PROGRAMS:**

**552** (On Zoom and in-person)

**Breakdown:**

Learning (Discussions, memoir writing, speakers): **126**

Social Connection: **195**

Health and Wellbeing: **157**

Intergenerational: **48**

Collaborative and Partner Programs: **26**

**2022 MEMBER SERVICE**

**REQUESTS COMPLETED: 1,025**

Filled by volunteers: **427**

Health, fitness, and wellbeing requests: **305**

Rides: **216** (filled by 10 volunteers)

Support through transitions (health, moving, end of life): **77** members and their families

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Weekly Member Memo to **500** households

Weekly Event Calendar to **500** households

Monthly Navigator to **4,200** households





# THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY

“These are interesting people that I can connect with whether we’re being serious or just having fun.”

## The membership experience

The Village community is filled with diverse, fun, interesting people who believe we are better together. It is composed not only of members, but also families, friends, supporters, donors, and service providers. Last year over 550 programs and events brought companionship, learning, and fun to the community; and many found purpose through volunteering and committee work.

## Building an inclusive and equitable community

The Village welcomes people of all backgrounds and abilities. In 2022 we achieved some notable milestones by attracting a more diverse membership, board, and staff. We increased membership and participation by LGBTQ+ individuals from 2% to more than 8% and increased Latinx and Black representation on our staff and board - particularly in our intergenerational initiatives. We also received SAGECare Platinum Certification for LGBTQ+ cultural competency, conducted DEI training sessions for the staff and board, and expanded reduced fee memberships.



**“We didn’t know anybody so we joined the walks in the park and right away, we belonged.”**





# SOCIAL LIFE

“ Once again, the Village’s  
Annual Benefit was the party  
of the year! ”



## Village Chicago Events

In 2022 we deepened our culture of connection with more in-person events and popular Zoom activities. People relished seeing friends and acquaintances at happy hours, walks around the park, writing workshops, neighborhood tours, lunches, dinners, theaters, movies, and our fun-filled Annual Benefit.

Coming out of the pandemic, the Village succeeded in helping people rebuild social skills and reduced isolation by providing continuous access to intergenerational activities, opportunities to make friends, and form new social networks. Whether on Zoom or in-person, people told us that they felt more engaged, less lonely, and much healthier.

“Zoom brings me a whole  
new world of interesting  
ideas and fun.”

## Annual Benefit: *Can't Stop the Beat!*

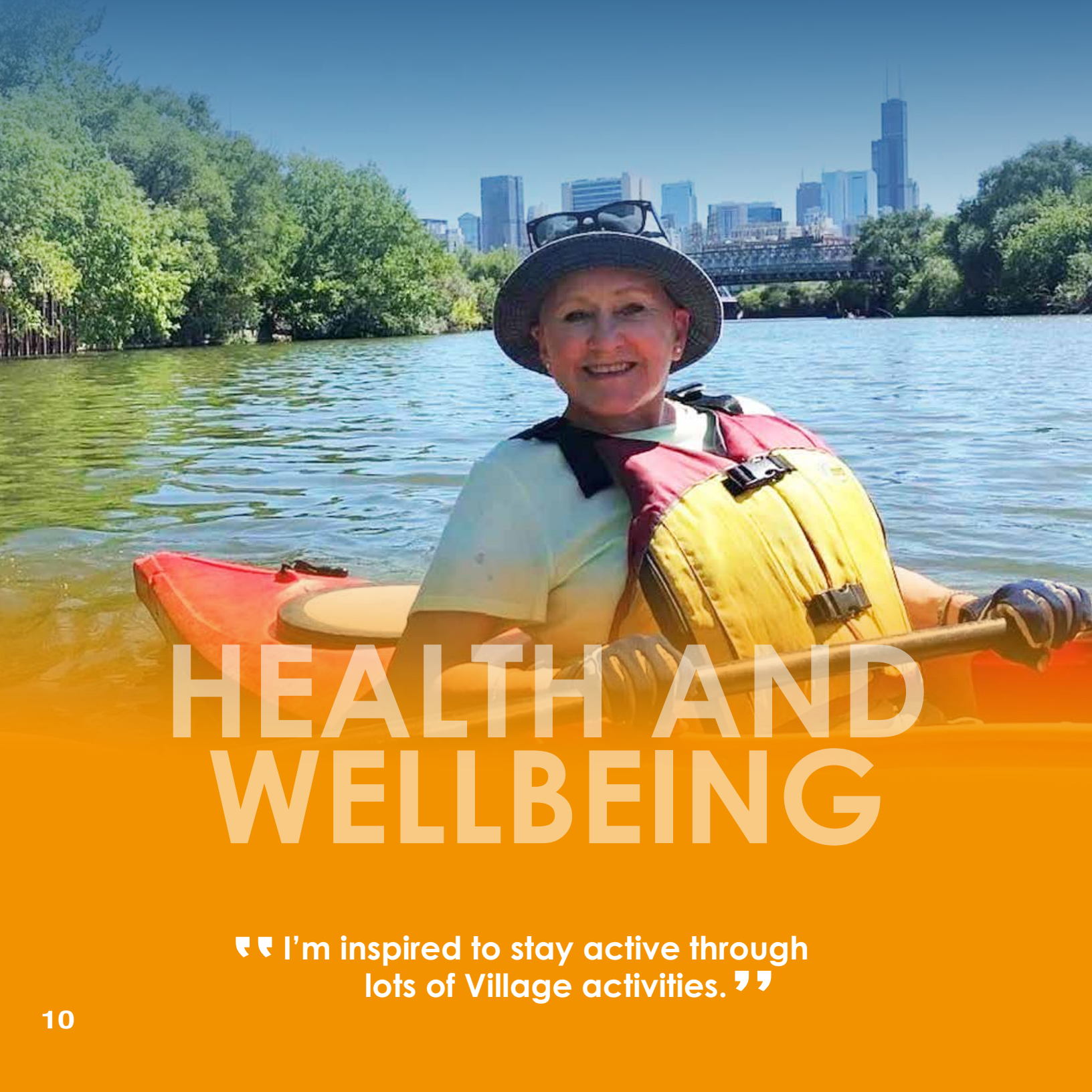
Friends and supporters came out in force to celebrate the Village community. Held at DePaul School of Music's Holtschneider Performance Center, the September gala featured our annual Trailblazer Awards, member stories, silent and live auctions, great food, cocktails, and a thrilling performance by Porchlight Music Theatre. Thanks to all of our donors, we set a new fundraising record to support our programs.



# SOCIAL LIFE







# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

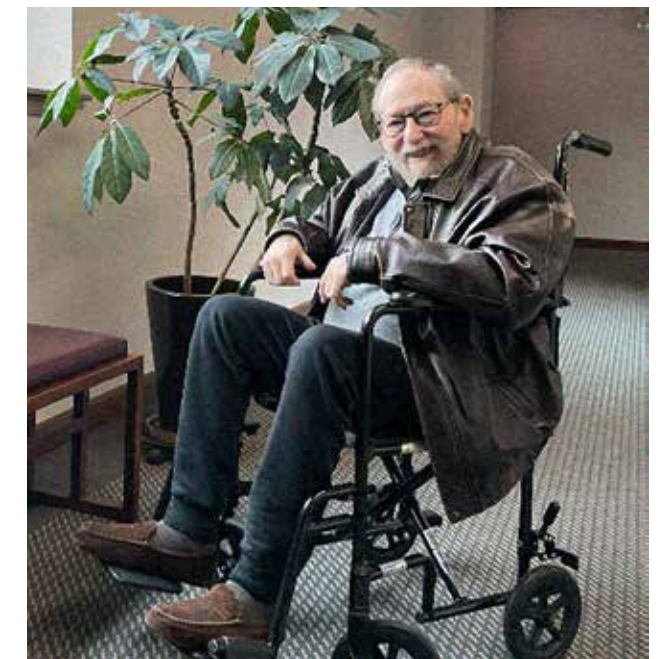
“ I’m inspired to stay active through lots of Village activities.”

**Village programs support all aspects of wellbeing — physical, emotional, and social** — within a trusted, caring, supportive network. We pay close attention to each person's unique situation and then provide information and tools so they and their families can make informed health care decisions with clarity and confidence.

In 2022 we held 157 health and wellbeing programs, featuring the most current thinking with outstanding speakers. Held both in person and on Zoom, these events were attended by hundreds of Village members and scores of others. Aided by community partners, we also provided information on health and wellbeing through one-on-one conversations, and regular features in the weekly Member Memo and the monthly Navigator.

**“Nothing makes me feel better than going out to visit friends.”**

The pandemic brought into sharp relief the prevalence of isolation and loneliness and their profound, negative impact on health and wellbeing. The Village continues to create innovative ways to break through the wall of isolation, unleashing significant mental and physical health benefits — resulting in longer, happier lives.

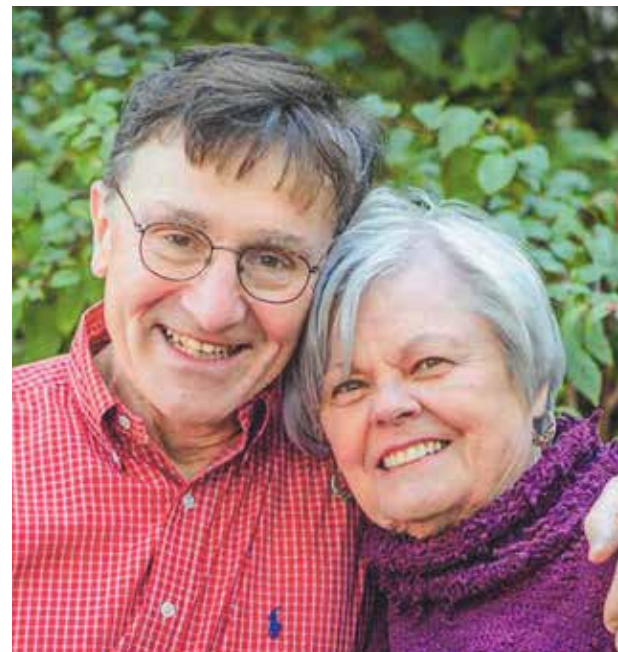






# BRAIN HEALTH MEMORY LOSS

“ Mom’s in memory care now but we could not have done it without the Village who helped us navigate the journey we’re on from day one. ”



**Interest in our memory loss programs has increased dramatically over the past year.** In 2022 we worked with 77 members and their families — adult children and partners — to plan for a loved one’s care.

People with concerns about memory and cognition or reacting to a diagnosis can be overwhelmed by new emotions, questions, and decisions. We know that a dementia journey begins with the individual — or their care partner. We focus on the whole person, using their strengths and

**“The Village helped change the trajectory of what we were doing and how we were dealing with memory loss.”**

experience to guide us in determining what resources they need to move forward with confidence. These discussions are the first step in on-going Village engagement and support.

Our peer support groups continue to meet regularly and many consider it their lifeline. We introduced art and music programs for individuals with memory loss and established a bi-monthly Brain Connection Cafe with lively activities that loved ones and their care partners can enjoy together, with more on the way in 2023.

Memory loss does not always mean Alzheimer’s, and there are many treatable conditions, as well as clinically proven ways to improve brain health. At the Village, we sort through the noise, working with local and national experts to share information on brain health that may significantly delay the onset of dementia and related conditions.





# LEADING THE WAY

“Imagine a world in which everyone’s abilities are accepted at face value and where no one is excluded because they are too young, or too old.”

### Building an Inclusive Chicago

The Village is passionate about dismantling age bias and building an inclusive society that recognizes and rewards the strengths of all people. We are leading the way in changing entrenched mindsets to make way for a more engaged, productive, and interconnected Chicago. The Village received substantial funding for these initiatives from organizations and individuals who share our commitment.

### Turn the Page on Age Awards

Joining forces with Chicago Innovation Foundation and with funding from RRF Foundation for Aging, we launched Turn the Page on Age, a multifaceted awareness campaign that helped expose the prevalence of age bias. We hosted 16 events, published op-eds, and presented awards to author Patti Temple Rocks and Women Over 70 podcast founders Gail Zelitsky and Catherine Marienau.

### Trailblazer Awards

Now in its third year, the Trailblazer Awards have helped the Village become a national voice by recognizing those who are changing the narrative on age. In 2022 we honored Neelum T. Aggarwal, MD, Professor, Department of Neurological Sciences, Rush Medical College; Jane Addams Senior Caucus, a multiracial, grassroots organization that advocates for older adults; and Yale Prof. Becca Levy, whose book *Breaking the Age Code* has helped transform our understanding of the aging process.

### Thought Leaders

One of the highlights of 2022 was a spirited discussion on Zoom, *Ageist, Racist, Who me?* with well-known ageism activist Ashton Applewhite, who was interviewed by Village board member, Molly Matthias.

### Trailblazers 2022



Becca Levy, PhD



Lily Lerner, Jane Addams Senior Caucus



Neelum T. Aggarwal, MD





# CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS

“ We look forward to socializing with people of all ages. ”

## Ageless Innovators

Ageless Innovators is a thriving intergenerational co-mentoring program that boasts more than 300 alumni. Older and younger innovators share their experiences and insights through one-on-one meetings, networking and professional development events, and more.

Launched in 2019 by the Village Chicago and Chicago Innovation, the program demonstrates the energy and innovation unleashed by age inclusive work teams. Cohorts develop best practices, which are then shared with their companies or organizations.

## The Bridging Generations Board

The Village's Bridging Generations Board (BGB) is a group of young adults who want to be a part of age-integrated workplaces and communities. With a cadre of Ageless Innovator alumni who joined the BGB, they organize book, short story and documentary discussion groups; intimate intergenerational dinners; community volunteering, game and Trivia nights and more.

Both of these programs are supported by generous grants from the RRF Foundation for Aging and the Helen Brach Foundation.



## Intergenerational Volunteer Corps

This is a large and committed group, many of whom are young adults. They are driven by their commitment to the social wellbeing of the entire community and their desire to find purpose.





# WORK AND PURPOSE

“ I’m grateful the Village has so many ways for me to volunteer. ”

While many in the Village community are working full or part time, others are seeking new ways to find both purpose and companionship. The Village develops programs and activities that provide opportunities for both.

In 2022 the Village played an important role with a MATTER Chicago program — *Accelerating Innovation in Aging*. Ten national and international startups were paired with Village mentors and advisors to help better understand the market for technologies and services focused on older adults.

Our **Life 3.0 Committee** creates new and interesting ways for people to explore how they want to live and work in later life. Programs help build new social and friend networks by exploring the city, or enjoying a relaxed happy hour together. They also focus on programs related to job opportunities, career transitions, and work/life balance when caring for aging parents.

Many volunteers lend their talents to the city’s cultural arts, youth, and service organizations. Others focus on helping in the Village community by organizing

“What I was hoping for was to experience aging the way it could be. And that's what the Village has done for me.”

events, welcoming new members, hosting programs, and fundraising. They put their experience and knowledge to work, while achieving that special sense of fulfillment that comes from collaboration and accomplishment.





# SERVICES AND REFERRAL NETWORK



**“Tech help from the Village keeps me connected.”**

**The Village helps members and their families by filling requests** for transportation, healthcare allies, financial and legal needs, homecare and assisted living options, technology assistance, and a myriad of household tasks — from finding a plumber to snow removal.

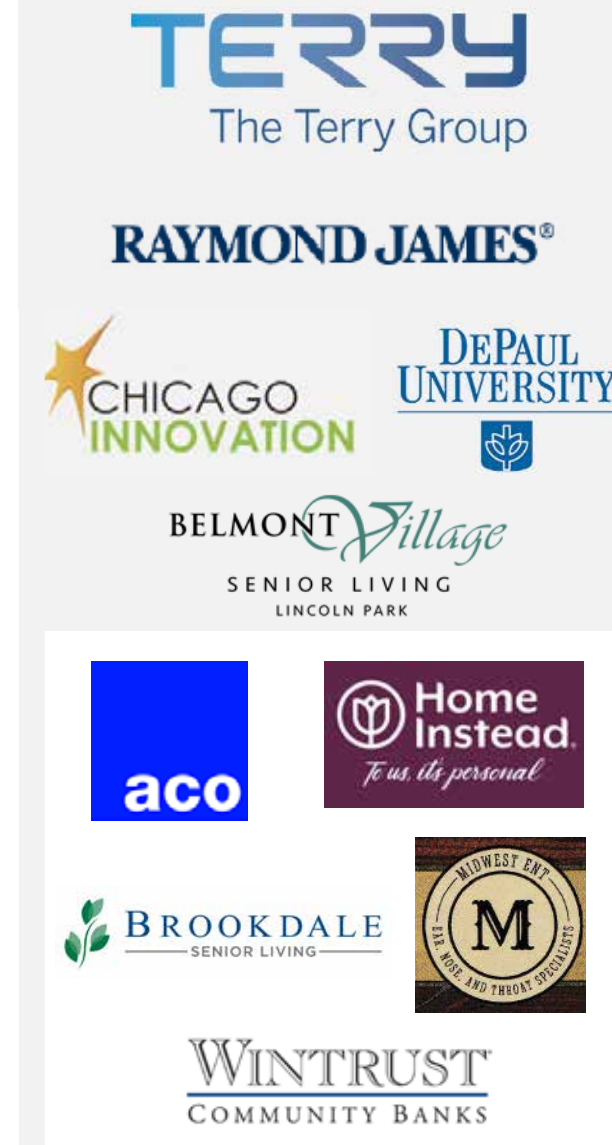
In 2022 we filled 1,025 service requests, ranging from post-surgery in-home care referrals to reliable tradespeople. Each request received personal attention from our professional staff, who are creative problem-solvers and skilled listeners. They understand that a simple request for house cleaning help might be masking an urgent need for caregiving respite.

More than half of 2022 service requests were fulfilled by volunteers — a true reflection of the village’s core value which is to marshal the goodwill and skills of our community to sustain and help one another.

# SPONSORS

## Partners and Collaborators

These organizations and businesses are an important part of the Village community. They enrich our knowledge, experiences, and services through ongoing collaboration and support.



Advocate Lutheran General Hospital	H.O.M.E.
Alzheimer’s Association of Chicago	Howard Brown Health
BoardLead	Illinois Prison Project
Center for Disability and Elder Law	Jane Addams Senior Caucus
Center on Halsted	Kathy Krick Design
Chicago Architecture Center	Lake View Presbyterian Church
Chicago Debates	LincolnPark FamilyCare
Chicago History Museum	Loyola University Chicago
Chicago Innovation	Mather
Chicago Methodist Senior Services	MATTER Chicago
Chicago Public Library	Movement Revolution
Digital Learn	Northshore Village Network
Chicagoland Villages Collaborative	Northwestern University
CoGenerate.org	Old Town Triangle Association
Debra D. Feldman & Associates, Ltd.	Parkinson’s Foundation
DePaul University	Porchlight Music Theatre
Disability Lead	PrideArts Chicago
Dutton Casey & Mesoloras, Elder Law Attorneys	Reeling Film Festival
Facing History and Ourselves	Steven Rosofsky Moving Pictures
Frameworks Institute	Rush University Medical Center
Gerber/Hart Library & Archives	SAGECare
Gerontological Society of America	SHARE Network Chicago
Greater Chicago Food Depository	Sounds Good! & Good Memories Choirs
The Guild of the Chicago History Museum	Stories Matter Foundation
Heartland Alliance	Town Hall Apartments
	University of Chicago
	University of Illinois at Chicago
	Village to Village Network
	Vitalize Home Therapy PLLC
	Wintrust Old Town

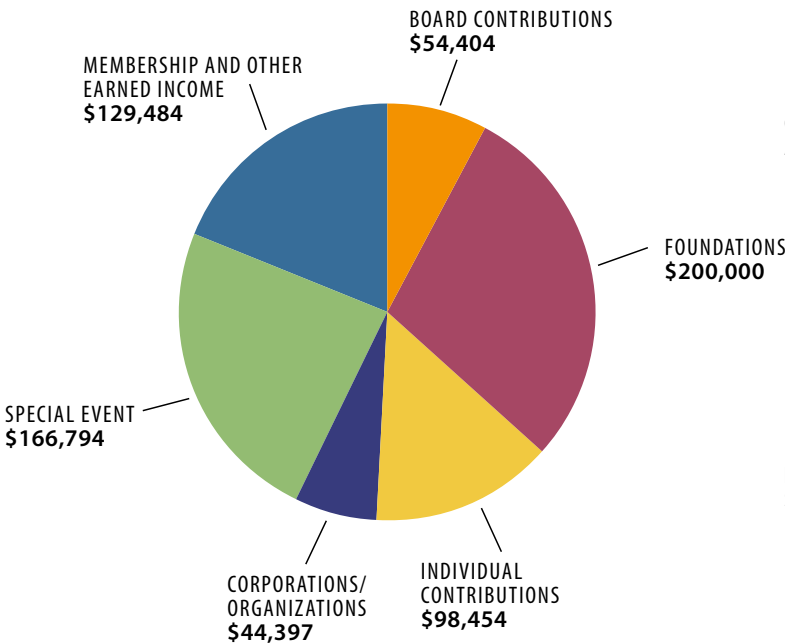


# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2022 Financials — (Unaudited)

## INCOME

TOTAL REVENUE: \$693,534

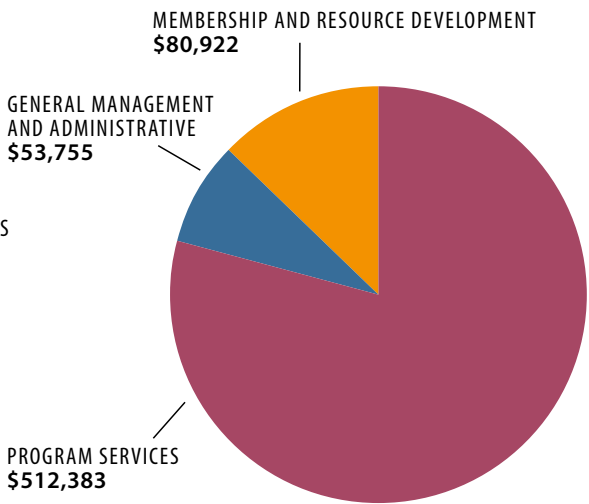


NET ASSETS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR: \$1,114,158

NET ASSETS AT THE END OF THE YEAR: \$1,082,305

## EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$647,061



# DONOR ROLL

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, 2022.

<b>\$100,000+</b> Anonymous Foundation	Char & Larry Damron DePaul University Darcy L. Evon * Kathie * & Bob Kolodgy Meike Wealth Management Group Gail Moss * Raymond James Estelle Spector* Emily & Robert Spoerri * Karen * & Tom Terry Liz Ware & Wally Shah* Pam & Mel Washburn * Joyce Winnecke * & George Houlihan	Judith Gethner * Kristen E. Hansen Therese Meike * Midwest ENT Gordon J. Siegel, MD Vamse Kumar Subbiah * Donna & Dirk Vos * Jan * & Tony Walters Wintrust Bank
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<b>\$15,000 +</b> Marsha & Philip Dowd Joan Goldstein * * Catherine Grahn David D. Hiller * Susan & Tom Kuczmarski Dick Sullivan *		<b>\$1,500 +</b> The Abra Wilkin Fund Ellen Stone Belic * Timothy Boudreau Stefanie Clark * Deborah & Estia Eichten Reven & Reed Fellars * Patricia & Mike Frazin Bill Kwit Eva & Lynn Maddox Midwest Financial Advisors Group Mosaic Construction Old Town Triangle Association Camille Olson & Michael Reed * O'Malley & Kwit PwC G.C. Quarterman * Linda Randall * & William Schey Norman Sandfield Maureen & Benjamin* Weiss* Abra & Jim Wilkin
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<b>\$5,000+</b> Belmont Village Senior Living of Lincoln Park Chicago Innovation Patricia A. Clickener	<b>\$2,500 +</b> ACO Commercial Brookdale Lake Shore Drive Dianne & Tom Campbell Nancy Felton-Elkins	

KEY \* = BOARD MEMBER \* = VILLAGE CHAMPION \* = DECEASED



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Established by Estelle Spector (1930-2022)



Estelle brought great success and vitality to the Annual Benefit as the co-chair for more than 10 years. We thank the following donors:

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Chicago White Sox  
Chicago Wolves  
ComEd  
Cycle Smithy  
da Vinci Group  
Betty Dayron  
D'Agostino's Pizza & Pub  
Elite Administration & Insurance  
Darcy L. Evon  
Exchequer Pub  
FashionBar LLC  
Niki Fox  
Gene Siskel Film Center  
Judith Gethner  
Glessner House  
Joan Goldstein  
Goodman Theater  
Catherine Grahn  
Grant Park Music Festival  
David D. Hiller  
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center  
Jean Lachat Photography  
Kansaku Sushi

Kathy Krick  
Ira Kohlman  
Landmark Century Centre Cinema  
Le Piano  
Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises  
Angie & Marc Levenstein  
Cary Lewis  
Lillstreet Art Center  
Music Box Theater  
Old Town Triangle Association  
Park West Ceramics  
Pizza City USA  
Rick Planos  
Porchlight Music Theatre  
Linda Randall  
Carol Rosofsky  
Steven Rosofsky Moving Pictures  
Salon Edda  
Shedd Aquarium  
Estelle Spector\*  
JB Spector Photography  
Steak 48  
Steppenwolf Theatre  
Lois & Richard Stuckey  
Sugarwish  
Dick Sullivan  
Karen & Tom Terry  
Thompson Street Opera Company  
Timeline Theatre Company  
UChicago Graham School  
Unabridged Bookstore  
Victory Gardens Theater  
The Village Chicago Board  
Ruth Ann & Tom Watkins  
Joyce Winnecke & George Houlihan  
Winter's Jazz Club  
Women & Children First Bookstore  
Wood Restaurant  
Cheryl Woodson  
Zazu Salons



# THE VILLAGE CHICAGO LEADERSHIP

## Meet Our Officers, Directors, and Staff

### OFFICERS

David Baker, *President*  
Judith Gethner, *Secretary*  
Dick Sullivan, *Treasurer*  
Thomas C. Eley III, *Vice President*  
Joan Goldstein, *Vice President*  
Therese Meike, *Vice President*  
Kathie Kolodgy, *Vice President*  
Karen Terry, *Immediate Past President*

### DIRECTORS

Don Bell	Liz Metzger
Stefanie Clark	Gail Moss
Charles G. Cooper	Carol Stein
Carol Hitchie	Lois Stuckey
Ira Kohlman	Vamse Kumar Subbiah
Angie Levenstein	Jan Walters
Molly Matthias	Joyce Winnecke

*As of October 17, 2022*

Special thanks to Alex Garcia Photography, JB Spector, Photography and Kathy Krick Design



### STAFF

Darcy L. Evon, *CEO*  
Callie Alton, *Director of Membership and Engagement*  
Laurel Baer, *Director of Strategic Initiatives*  
Betty Dayron, *Social Work Field Instructor*  
Niki Fox, *Director of Health and Wellbeing*  
Julie Reeder, *Director of Development*  
Kate Spelman, *Director of Programs and Communications*  
Susan Wakula, *Director of Finance*  
Ashley Walker, *Finance, Administration, and Development Manager*

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Executive Committee

*Chair:* David Baker

#### Bridging Generations Board

*Whip:* Dominic DiPuccio

*Steering Committee:* Callie Alton, Mohit Bathija, Emily King, Molly Matthias, Liz Metzger, Ashley Walker

#### Health and Wellbeing Committee

*(Includes Brain Health/Memory Loss)*

*Co-chairs:* Niki Fox and Ruth Ann Watkins

#### Investment Committee

*Chair:* Nancy Felton-Elkins

#### LGBTQA Committee

*Chair:* Peggy Walker

#### Life 3.0 Committee

*Chair:* Thomas C. Eley III

#### Membership Experience Committee

*Co-Chairs:* Dick Sullivan and Karen Terry

#### Program Committee

*Staff Liaison:* Kate Spelman

#### Research Committee

*Co-chairs:* Neelum Aggarwal, M.D. and Angie Levenstein

#### Resource Development Committee

*Co-chairs:* Joan Goldstein and Ruth Ann Watkins

#### Annual Benefit Committee

*Co-chairs:* Judith Gethner and Ira Kohlman

#### Task Forces

DEI Task Force

*Chair:* Don Bell

#### Thought Leader Engagement

*Co-chairs:* David Baker and Sandy Tice

### CIRCLES

These social groups are comprised of Village members and friends who organize activities in their neighborhoods, although attendance is often open to all Village members:

***Lakeview Circle, Near North, Greater Edgewater***

## We Are the Village Chicago

See our latest video at <https://thevillagechicago.org/about/>





*"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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