

2025 Annual Report



Connected Valued Supported



The Village Chicago is a community of people who choose to share friendship, interests, and experience as we age. Our professional staff, volunteers, and services network act together to ensure that Village members feel connected, supported, and valued.

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

Table of Contents

Letter from Leadership	1
Connection	2
Support	4
Inclusion	6
Health and Wellbeing	8
Collaborators	10
Future of the Village	12
Partners and Annual Sponsors	14
Financial Summary	15
Donor Roll	16
Leadership	20

Dear Friends,

2025 was a year of change and upheaval, difficult for many of us, including nonprofits navigating uncertain times. But pressure has a way of revealing what matters. It reminded us of who we are and why we're here.

This year we did a lot of listening across our community, and what we are seeking is clear: we want to learn and grow; and we want to be together. We understand that as we age, our lives don't stand still, they change and evolve and ask new things of us. The Village is here to meet those changes head-on. Our goal is simple. When you are part of the Village community you are connected, supported, and valued.

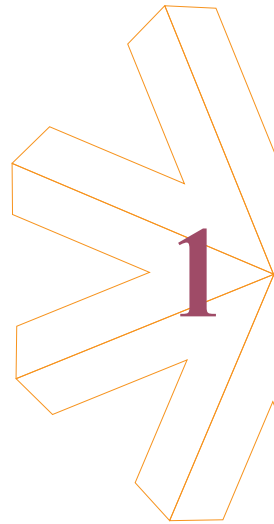
We're not doing this work quietly anymore. We're claiming our place as a unique community resource. There is nothing else like The Village Chicago. The work you'll read about in these pages reflects a community that doesn't settle. We're making what's good even better, and moving forward with strength.

Thank you for making this work possible, for standing with us, believing in what we do, and being part of something that matters.

Everyone needs and Village and we are yours.

With gratitude and pride,

David Baker, *Board Chair*
and Molly Conley,
Executive Director



Connection

2

“Now I am learning how to live as a solo ager and because of the Village, I already have this wonderful network of support and friendship.”



We know
that real, on-going
connections are the strongest
predictors of physical and
mental health, longevity, and happiness.

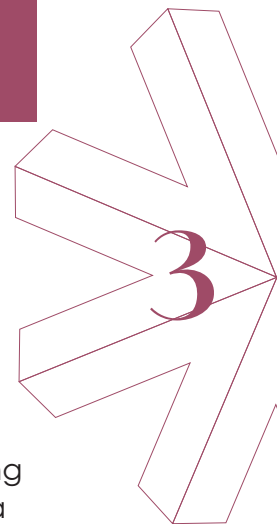
There are decades of serious research behind the active, fun, and engaging opportunities to connect that Village members enjoy.

Making new friends isn't easy, especially in later life. So in 2025, we expanded the opportunities to socialize by bringing people together to share experiences with events like our Halloween-themed Fall Potluck; our first-ever Annual Members' Meeting in a "Village Fair" format; excursions to explore the many treasures of Chicago; and a monthly Game Day.



2025 also saw a group of members who are solo agers band together to help each other address their special needs and interests — social, legal, and practical.

Being together matters to our community and these new programs along with continuing popular favorites like Saturday at the Movies and the monthly Happy Hour resulted in over 550 opportunities for conversation and fun.



Support

4

“Over the years, as I’ve faced health challenges, the Village has provided invaluable support and the impact on my wellbeing has been profound.”



We know

that receiving and giving help are gifts of equal worth.

Within our community, people know, support, and care for one another. In an environment of shrinking or non-existent public services, the Village continues to provide helping hands, support groups, reliable information, and referrals to trusted resources — all from people who understand members' individual circumstances.

In 2025, 43 volunteers helped members with tech support, rides for medical appointments and grocery shopping, recommendations for professional services, and companionship. We reimaged our Connector Program which facilitates meaningful relationships by offering opportunities for social connection and mutual support through regular visits or phone calls.

Volunteers also do much of the important work of the Village by serving on committees. Some of these committees plan and execute our year-round calendar of events and social activities while others keep us current on relevant topics such as aging research, ageism, and self-advocacy.

In 2025, we upgraded our volunteer recognition program, holding several events to recognize the contributions of volunteers, some of whom have been serving since the Village's founding in 2009.



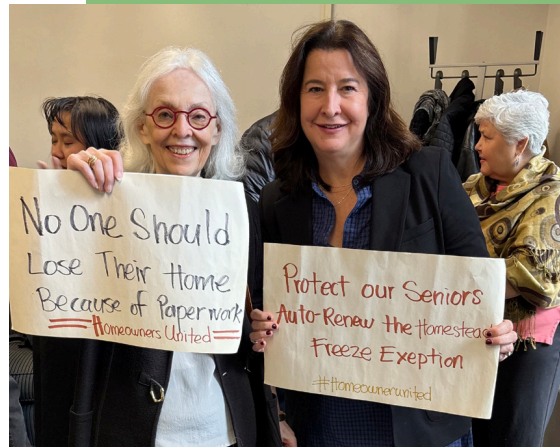
Inclusion

“At the fall potluck, I really felt the breadth of the Village; members with their grand-children, young volunteers, and the DePaul students who are working alongside us.”

6



We believe
that everyone should be
valued for who they are
and what they bring.

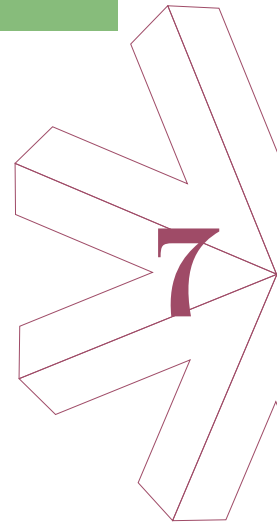


Guided by that belief, we have developed programs and services that make it possible for all to experience a sense of belonging within our community.

In 2025, the LGBTA Committee continued to build an intergenerational community through theatre outings, book discussions, and happy hours, where people of all identities, including allies, are welcome.

The Village has offered a reduced-fee membership since its inception. In a year marked by economic uncertainty for many members, 17% of our community received full membership benefits, regardless of ability to pay.

2025 also saw the start of a comprehensive program to improve accessibility for members. This is an intergenerational project with member volunteers and DePaul University Occupational Therapy students who together are evaluating the accessibility of venues, both large and small for future programs and events. In addition, many of our programs are accessible to members through Zoom, hybrid presentations, or recordings.



Health and Wellbeing

8 “I have needed a lot of information as I age into a new normal.

With the Village, I know I have backing that is warm, willing, understanding... and smart!”



We know

that virtually everything we encounter in life has an impact on health and wellbeing.

With our staff of seasoned problem solvers, members can rely on the Village for day-to-day support for their computer and tech issues, rides to medical appointments and grocery shopping, and for referrals to everything from attorneys to dog walkers.

And when life gets complicated, we equip our members and their families with the knowledge, tools, and support to make health and life decisions with clarity and confidence.

In 2025, we developed The Prepared Life, a year-long series focused on planning ahead and staying grounded through life's transitions. It launched with "A Legal Roadmap to Aging Well," led by an elder law attorney.

We continue to provide ways to stay active in a social setting with weekly walks around the North Pond, and added a new collaboration with DePaul's Ray Meyer Fitness and Recreation Center that launched with a lively AquaZumba session. We brought that same energy to brain health with programs including biweekly Brain Spa, conversational Spanish and French, and monthly Game Day, to help members stay sharp, curious, and connected.

Support for family caregivers is an ongoing priority. In addition to close-knit support groups, we held free monthly Memory Cafés in partnership with the Lincoln Park Library, featuring games, arts and crafts, and music for individuals with memory loss and their care partners. Timely programs on essential topics such as "Moving a Loved One to Memory Care," Social Security, and emerging frauds and scams, helped caregivers feel more confident, informed, and better able to protect their loved ones.



9

Collaborators

10

“I have learned that what matters to me is being a part of a community of people seeking to make a positive impact on the world around us.”



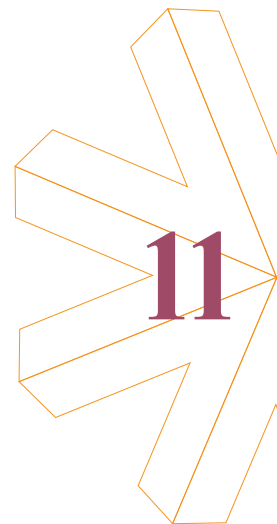
We believe
that people who feel
connected create a
culture of participation.

In 2025, we began a new era of community engagement by bringing key organizations together as our partners in the Village's successful initiative to secure Lincoln Park's official designation as part of the national

Dementia Friendly America network. With partners including the Lincoln Park Zoo, Lincoln Park Branch Library, Chicago History Museum, DePaul University, the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter, the 43rd Ward Alderman's office, the Lincoln Park Chamber, and six other organizations, we are strengthening relationships and reciprocity while addressing one of today's most urgent health challenges.

These partnerships have already opened doors to new opportunities to collaborate including speakers for Village programs and new venues for our gatherings.

Also in 2025, we formed an alliance with the Chicago Consortium on Longevity. Launched in 2024, the Consortium is a collaboration among faculty at DePaul University and Northwestern University that aims to make Chicago "the best place to grow old in America." Our first joint event is planned for March, 2026.



Future of the Village

12

“The Village idea is a social experiment that needed to be tried and now has proven that it works!”

We are moving forward at a time when change is more unpredictable and comes more quickly than ever. We have a renewed understanding of what "for members, by members" means. The core values of choice, purpose, belonging, and agency are woven into every program and membership experience, ensuring that our offerings reflect the interests, needs, and lived experience of our community in the world as it is today.

We are implementing new programs and events that strengthen connections, foster intergenerational relationships, and provide stimulating experiences to inspire and engage. We embrace our diverse population, so that every member feels connected, supported, and valued.



THE ARTS



FOR YOUR HEALTH



THE PREPARED LIFE



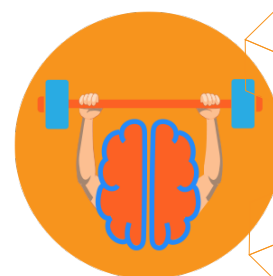
JUST FOR FUN



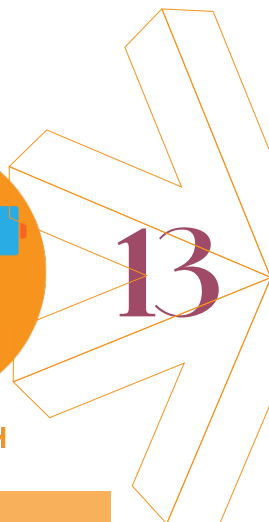
LET'S DISCUSS IT!



EXCURSIONS



BRAIN HEALTH



We are creating space, literally and figuratively, for stories to be shared. We've re-imagined our office with room for members to gather, visit, and enjoy being together. And we are also opening space in our community for new collaborations and partnerships.

We are turning plans into moments, ideas into experiences, and spaces into places where members see, are seen, and belong. **Our legacy guides us, and our vision shapes the future.**

We've refreshed our event calendars and added these icons to help members navigate offerings and find the experiences they're seeking.

Annual Sponsors

With deep gratitude we recognize and thank our Annual Sponsors. Through their support of The Village Chicago they demonstrate the commitment they share with us to the wellbeing of older adults.



Partners and Collaborators

These organizations help expand our reach into the community while strengthening the Village with new capacity, resources, and expertise.

Alzheimer's Association	DePaul University*	Lincoln Park Zoo *
Alzheimer's Association, Illinois Chapter *	DFSS/City of Chicago, Area Agency on Aging *	National Center to Reframe Aging
Belmont Village *	Dutton Casey & Mesoloras, Elder Law Attorneys	Old Town Triangle Association
Center for Life and Learning	43rd Ward Alderman's Office *	PrideArts Chicago
Center on Halsted	Frameworks Institute	Reeling Film Festival
Chicago Area Villages Collaborative	Home Instead *	Senior Helpers of Chicago *
Chicago Consortium on Longevity	Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce *	Sincer Senior Living*
Chicago History Museum *	Lincoln Park Branch Chicago Public Library *	Sunrise Senior Living *
Chicago Innovation Foundation	Lincoln Park FamilyCare	Village to Village Network
Comfort Keepers *		Wintrust Old Town

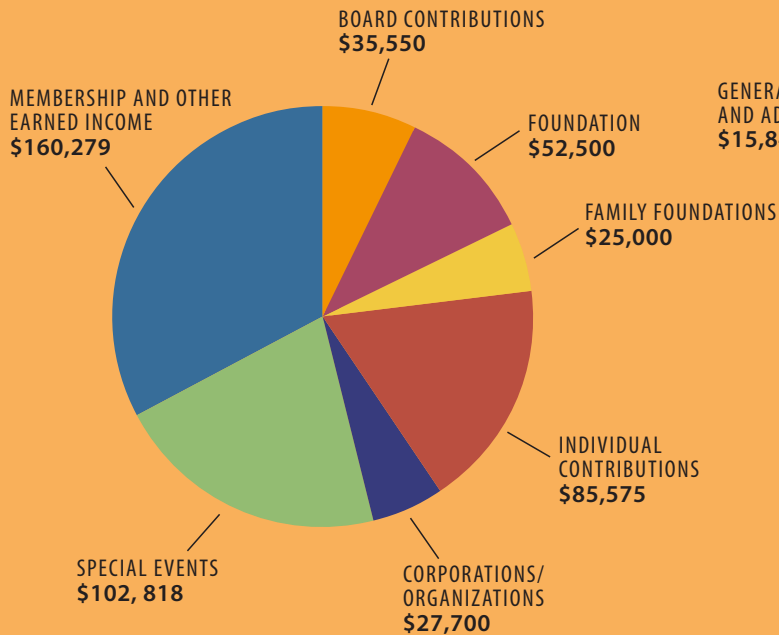
**These organizations are our partners in The Village Chicago's successful initiative to designate Lincoln Park as a Dementia Friendly Community*

Financial Summary

2025 FINANCIALS (UNAUDITED)

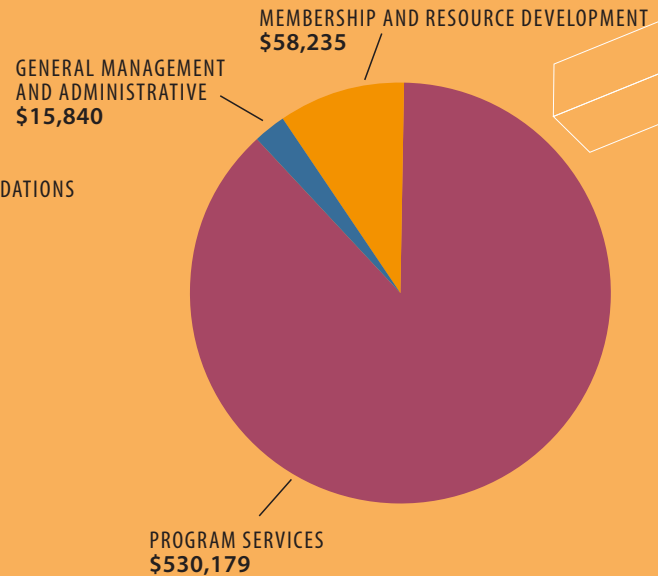
REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$489,422



EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$604,254



NET ASSETS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR: \$1,536,347

NET ASSETS AT THE END OF THE YEAR: \$1,480,440

15

Donor Roll 2025

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, 2025.

16

\$25,000+

Anonymous Family Foundation
Marsha & Philip Dowd

\$20,000 - \$24,999

Joan Goldstein * *
Tom & Susan Kuczmarski
RRF Foundation for Aging

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Henrietta Lange Burk Fund
Mary Ann Schwartz *
Dick Sullivan

\$5,000-\$9,999

Susanne & David Baker *
Kathy & Les Banwart
Helen Brach Foundation
Char & Larry Damron *
Fort Hill Private Wealth Advisors of
Raymond James
Emily & Bob Spoerri *
Liz Ware & Wally Shah
Wintrust Bank

\$2,500-\$4,999

Baird & Warner/John Irwin and
Jackie Lafferty
Belmont Village Senior Living
Lincoln Park
Timothy Boudreau
Carol Bryant
Lynne Carpenter
DePaul University
Victoria & Tom Eley * *
Nancy Felton-Elkins *
Judith Gethner
Kathie & Bob Kolodgy
Angela Levenstein *
Janet & Alan Lougée
Judith Metzger & Daniel
Cyganowski
Marcia Opp & Jon Ekdahl *
G.C. Quarterman
Carol Stein
Lois & Rick Stuckey
Vamse Kumar Subbiah *
& Siva Malini
Karen * & Tom Terry
Donna & Dirk Vos *
Ruth Ann Watkins

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Laurel Baer
James Bensdorf *
Margaret Brennan
Stefanie Clark *
Molly Conley
Deborah & Estia Eichten
Darcy L. Evon *
Debra & Gene Feldman
Marjorie Freed
Aviva Futorian *
Marlene Golembo
Stuart Greenfield
Melissa Haley
Dorothy & Bob Hernquist
David D. Hiller
Home Instead Senior Care
Beth & Fred Joosten
Ira Kohlman
Rhea Loudon
Loyola University Chicago
Melville Foundation
Liz Metzger * & Avi Newman
Heather O'Neill, Beacon Pointe
Barbara Mueller

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

Luigi Mumford *
Old Town Triangle Association
(OTTA)
Debbie Paige
Linda Randall
Jeff Robison
Nik Rokop
Rush University Medical Center
Rush Generations
Leatrice Berman Sandler &
Stephen Sandler
Bill Schey
Julie Spector
Justin Strane
Pat Terry
Linda Usher & Malcolm Lambe
Marcia & John Volk
Peg Walker *
Pam & Doug Walter
Karen Ward & Donald Yesnik
Pam & Mel Washburn
Dian & Tim Weddle
Patricia Werhane
The Abra Wilkin Fund

\$500- \$999

Doris & Harvey Adelstein
Michele Baldwin
Carole Barthel & Charles Norton
Judy Berg
Annette & Jerry Blumberg
Leslie Boxer
Jacie Brandes *
Judy Carmack Bross
Stephen Burns
Nadine Caputo

Armand Cerbone & Michael
Zartman
Jane Curry
Betty Dayron *
Deanna Dunagan
Susan Feingold & Doug Carlson
Diane Fitzgerald & Burt Richmond
Arlene & Camillo Ghiron
Constance Goldberg
Julie Graber
Lee Hamilton
Judith Hausner
Gay Held
Suzanne High & Donna Renn
Carol Hitchie
Paula Kahn
Susie Kealy
Gale & John Klein
Margot Levin
Bill Lowe
Eva & Lynn Maddox
Mary Kennedy Martin
Gail Moss
Susan Nelson
Virginia Rose Reed
Mary & Wayne Russell
Michele Smith
Sondra Sonneborn
David Swanlund
Marilyn & Fred Webster

Up to \$499

Deanna Accurso
Gretchen Althen
Callie Alton
Gunduz & Bruno Ast

Pat Aylward
Tim Blankenstein
Edmund Bradfield
Giovanna & Joe Breu
M.C. Burash
Kristine & James Cichowski
Bernadine Clark
Joy & Roy Cohen
Darwin Corrin
Nora Costello
Laurie Desmond
Wayne Dombrowski
Katherine Dong
Amy Dugdale
Diana Faulhaber
Reven & Reed Fellars
Barbara Fields
Donna & Jeff Fishman
Niki Fox
Irene Frye
Doris & Hugh C. Gilbert
Patti & Daniel Gillespie
Sheila Goldman
Bo Golovan
Diane Gonzalez & Thomas Leibig
Judith & Steven Goode
Delores Guerrero
Joe Haag
Eileen Harakal
Renee Harrison
Eleanor Hauser
Gay Held
Gwen Herrin & William Morgan
Jane Horowitz
Barbara Isaacs
Helen Jun





Rosemarie & Tom King
Marcia Kunstler
Lori & Tom Manning
Murray Manus
Kristina McMenamin
Rosalie Meyers
Mari Mikolajczak
Dan Miller
Lynn Miller & Kevin Koplin
Maureen Mooney
Madeline Muecke
Tom Mullaney
Michael Newberger
Robin Newberger
Mary O'Donnell
Janet Ohlhausen
Susan & Ted Oppenheimer
Marsha Ott
Pam Passis
Neil Peck
Dorothy Ramm
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Esther Reiter
Robert Rich
Grisel Rodriguez-Morales
Judy Roth
Margery Ryan
Margaret Schmid
Sharon Silverman
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Michael Starshank
Branka & Robert Steinbaugh
Linda & Downey Varey
Julia Van Vliet
Susan Wakula

Ralph Walin
Ethel Walker
Mary Agnes Welsh
Karen & David Yaney

IN HONOR OF

Callie Alton

Laurel Baer
Ralph Walin

Laurel Baer

Winifred Godfrey
Ralph Walin

Denise Blackburn

Jane M. Curry

Victoria & Tom Eley

Darcy L. Evon

Niki Fox

Susanne & David Baker
Victoria & Tom Eley
Winifred Godfrey
Karen & Tom Terry
Ruth Ann Watkins

Judith Gethner

Doris & Hugh Gilbert

Angie Levenstein

Joy & Roy Cohen

Gail Moss

Winifred Godfrey

Brooke Nanni

Joan Goldstein

Linda Randall

Sharon Silverman

Mary Ann Schwartz

Laurel Baer

Jill Stein

Winifred Godfrey

The Village Chicago Office Team

Niki Fox
Angela Levenstein

Ruth Ann Watkins

Carole Barthel & Charles
Norton
Darcy L. Evon
G.C. Quarterman

IN MEMORY OF

Chuck Cooper

Judit Hausner

Dot & Jim Fitzgerald

Diane Fitzgerald

Janice Gerstein

Carol L. Bryant

Andy Hiken

Susanne & David Baker
Bernadine Clark
Molly Conley
Jane M. Curry
Char & Larry Damron
Marsha & Phil Dowd

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Jane Horowitz
Barbara Isaacs
Angela Levenstein
Rosalie Meyers
Lynn Miller & Kevin Koplin
Mary Ann Schwartz
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Liz Ware & Wally Shah

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Tom Morgan

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Estelle Spector

Julie Spector

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Amy Dugdale

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Pat Terry

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Susan & Thomas Kuczmarski
Marcia Kunstler
Mary O'Donnell
Mary Ann Schwartz
Naomi Stanhaus
Michael Starshak
Linda & Downey Varey

Katherine & James Zartman

Dianne & Tom Campbell
Armand Cerbone & Michael Zartman
Marjorie Freed
Marcia Opp & Jon Ekdahl

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Susanne & David Baker
Belmont Village Senior Living
Lincoln Park
Boka Restaurant Group
Chicago Architecture Center
Chicago Fire FC

Chicago Food & City Tours
Chicago Shakespeare Theater
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Wolves
Fresh Market
Gene Siskel Film Center
George the Salon
Glessner House
Joan Goldstein
Goodman Theatre
Greenstar Brewing
Hearing Health Center
The Joffrey Ballet
Lettuce Entertain You
Angela Levenstein
Lincoln Park Library
Lincoln Park Zoo
Lou Malnati's
The Morton Arboretum
Northlight Theatre
Old Town Triangle Association
Park District of Highland Park
Porchlight Music Theater
Salon NB
The Second City
Sweethaven Resort
Third Space
University of Chicago Graham
School
Ruth Ann Watkins
Wattage Personal Training
Whole Foods
Wilde Bar & Restaurant
Wintrust Bank



THE VILLAGE CHICAGO

Leadership

MEET OUR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

OFFICERS

David Baker, *Chair*

Joan Goldstein, *Vice Chair*

Liz Metzger, *Secretary*

Thomas C. Eley III, *Treasurer*

Karen Terry

Molly Conley, *Executive Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Bell

Jacie Brandes

Stefanie Clark

Hugh Kremer

Tom Pasker

Marilyn Pearson

Vamse Kumar Subbiah

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

WHOSE TERMS EXPIRED IN

OCTOBER, 2025

Judith Gethner

Carol Hitchie

Kathie Kolodgy

Lois Stuckey

Carlos Terrazas

Mel Washburn

STAFF

Molly Conley, *Executive Director*

Callie Alton, *Director of Membership and Operations*

Laurel Baer, *Director of Strategic Initiatives*

Darien Bloom, *Development Manager*

Gia Schultz, *Director of Health and Wellbeing*

Bill Sherlock, *Accounting Manager*

Susan Wakula, *Director of Finance*

Jessica Zipkin, *Director of Communications and Programs*

A special thank you to former Executive Director Niki Fox and staff members Sarah Collins, Tamara Draper, and Brooke Nanni.

VILLAGE COMMITTEES

Committee members are part of Village leadership and a continuous source of creativity and innovation.

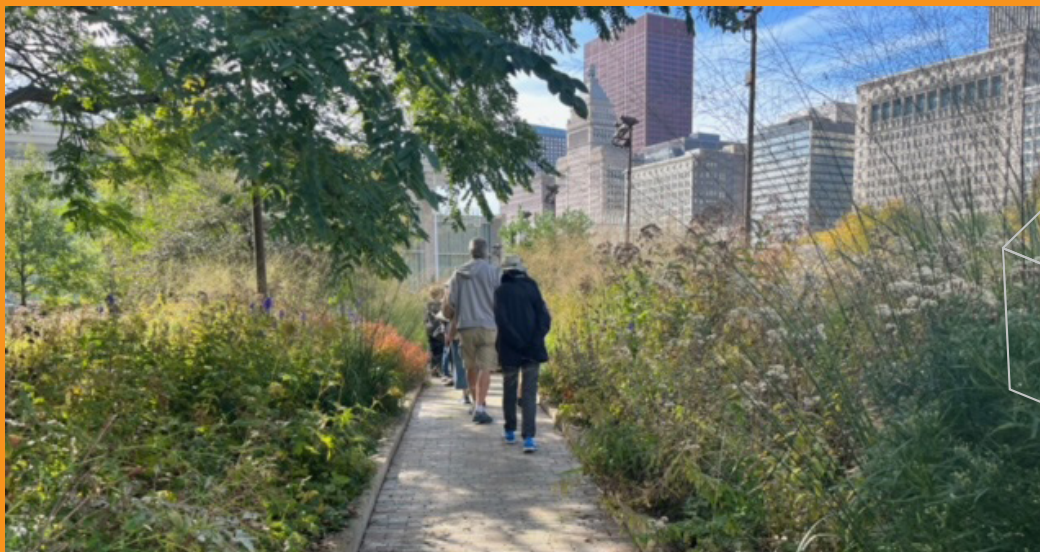
Executive, Governance, Health and Wellbeing, Investment, LGBTQA, Life 3.0, Marketing, Member Experience, Research, Resource Development



20

Staff





“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.”

**The Village Chicago
2502 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614**

773-248-8700 phone

Follow us   

www.thevillagechicago.org

info@thevillagechicago.org