



# The Westerly Village of The Village Common of RI

## OUR MISSION

- To help older adults residing in Westerly, R.I. to remain in their homes
- To help those residents remain active, connected, and independent in the home and community they love
- To help implement the valued practice of “Neighbor helping Neighbor” – matching, when feasible, the unique interests and talents of our fully vetted volunteers to the unique individual and joint needs requested by our members

## OUR STORY

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**Age Better Together. Join Us!**

## About Our Organization

### What is The Westerly Village?

- A new organization designed to help provide practical support for older adults residing in Westerly to enable them to remain in place in their homes and community
- A network of neighbors helping neighbors with direct individual and household support and with broader social and resource connections
- Comprised of members receiving these services and volunteers providing these services --- and some people who do both!

### Is The Westerly Village part of a larger network of villages?

- Westerly is the fourth Village of the Village Common of RI
- In addition to our Village, the non-profit Village Common provides support and guidance for Villages in Providence, Barrington, the Edgewood section of Cranston
- Part of a national movement in a Village-to-Village Network of more than 250 open villages and more than 100 in development, spanning 43 states
- The closest local network Village to Westerly currently in Rhode Island is Cranston, and in Connecticut is Branford

### How does the Westerly Village fit and work with other service providers?

- Partners with a wide array of individuals, groups, and organizations that provide helping services to Westerly residents
- Complementing --- not competing with or replacing --- those helping resources
- Supplementing and tailoring our services to the unique needs of our members and the talents and availability of our trained and fully vetted volunteers

### What makes us unique and flexible?

- Member-focused: on the unique individual and overall needs of our members
- Volunteer-tailored: to the unique individual talents and interests of our volunteers, who are trained and fully vetted (background checks, safe-driving records)
- Flexible: not driven by set schedules or protocols, but matching when possible each specific member request with an able and available volunteer

## About Our Services

### What types of services will be provided to our members?

- Direct one-on-one services to individual members (transportation, household maintenance and chores, technology support, and member-invited calls/visits)
- Group services generally available for our membership (social programs and connections)

### Transportation (within a 25-mile radius of Westerly)

- Rides from a fully vetted volunteer for shopping (e.g., groceries, gifts, garden centers), appointments (e.g., medical, personal care), small pet care (crated, non-emergency visits to Vets) and other needs (e.g., banks, worship, visits to friends, social events)
- NOTE: The 25-mile radius limit for rides shall be waived for rides to and from Green Airport, and may be waived, if feasible, for medical appointments in the Providence area
- No-fee pickups and deliveries by a volunteer of pre-ordered/prepaid items from local Westerly sources (e.g. groceries, medications, pre-ordered take-out meals)

### Household Maintenance and Chores

- Help with chores that have become challenging, especially for those requiring use of ladders (e.g., changing light bulbs or batteries, assembling or moving light furniture, flipping mattresses, hanging pictures and window shades, changing window screens, mending, implementing changes for improved safety)
- Help with outdoor maintenance (e.g., lawn, leaves, snow, trash)
- Help with small household emergencies or repairs (e.g., fixing leaky faucets or toilets, installing grab bars, being present at scheduled appointments when repair people will be in the home)

### Technical Support

- Troubleshoot and help solve problems with existing electronic devices (e.g., cell phone, tablet, computer, smart TV, DVR or VCR, remotes)
- Help with MS Word, Excel, Publisher, Zoom, Quick Books; exposure to 3-D printing
- Help with light setup of newly purchased electronic equipment

### Village Friends: Calls/Visits (member-invited)

- Periodic check-in calls or visits by a volunteer
- Walks with a volunteer
- Other volunteer services that offer individual help (e.g., to prevent social isolation; to assist non-medically when the member returns home from a hospital stay)

### Social Programs & Connections for Our Membership

- Planned and scheduled by our members and volunteers (e.g., clubs, Zoom discussions, attending community events together, connecting members who live near each other)
- Access to other programs (e.g., of our Village network or other community sources)

### Future Considerations

- Healthcare support: wellness programs, needs assessment, coordination of resources
- Referrals by volunteers and members to local area resources
- Business Area discounts

## About Our Members

### What are the benefits of being a member of The Westerly Village?

- Eligible to request and receive direct one-on-one services from trained, fully-vetted, and available volunteers --- initially includes transportation, simple household maintenance/ chores, technical support, and member-invited calls/visits (see "About Our Services")
- Access to and participation in group services and programs available – initially social programs and connections (clubs, Zoom discussions, community events)

### Who can be a member of The Westerly Village?

- Initially, a full-time or part-time resident of the Town of Westerly, R.I.
- Not age exclusive, although most of our members will be seniors (age 50 or above), since our primary mission is to help older adults remain active, connected, and independent in the home and community they love
- Volunteers also can be members, too – and the reverse!

### What types of memberships are there?

- Individual membership
- Dual membership = two adult family members living in that same household

### What are the costs of membership?

- Our Village is a membership organization that welcomes a wide diversity of people of all backgrounds, economic means, and service needs
- Membership dues represent a commitment from members to our Village. They are tailored to make membership affordable to people of all economic means. A range of dues levels is suggested by The Village Common of Rhode Island, or you may designate a level unique to you
- For an individual membership: an affordable annual amount (or monthly equivalent) that is comfortable for you — you decide
- For a dual membership: the same concept applies --- you decide
- Beyond dues, there are no other fees or expenses incurred by a member for any volunteer-provided direct service. Volunteer drivers pay for gas; no tips are permitted

### What is the process of becoming a member of the Westerly Village?

- You express your interest -- to a Westerly Village representative you know or have met, or via Email ([Westerly@villagecommonri.org](mailto:Westerly@villagecommonri.org))
- One of our Village Ambassadors will contact you and arrange with you a date and time for an in-person visit/conversation to answer questions and help determine together whether our Westerly Village can help and support your practical and social needs. You will have the opportunity at that time to choose the annual dues amount you are comfortable with.
- The Ambassador will provide any guidance needed in completing a Membership Application -- that is the final step in becoming a welcomed Westerly Village member.

## About Our Volunteers

### What are the benefits of becoming a Westerly Village volunteer?

- Playing a key role in fulfilling our mission of helping older adult residents of Westerly remain active, connected, and independent in the home and community they love.
- Helping implement the valued practice of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

### What are the available opportunities to be a Westerly volunteer?

- (See “About Our Services”)
- Providing needed rides and running errands directly for members
- Helping with household maintenance and chores that have become challenging
- Providing needed technical support for electronic devices
- Providing invited personal support (e.g., check-in calls, walks, etc.)
- Helping our Village plan/facilitate social programs and connections for our membership
- Helping our local Village with administrative/office support

### What makes our volunteers and volunteering unique?

- Strictly based on your interests/passions, talents, and availability
- You pick what services you are able and willing to provide
- You set your own schedule of when you can be available
- You determine whether you can accept a specific member request, or not

### What are prerequisites for being a Westerly Village volunteer?

- Can be from any location
- Must be vetted through The Village Common of Rhode Island (background checks for all, driving records for volunteer drivers)
- Sign a confidentiality agreement to respect member privacy

### What support does The Village Common of Rhode Island provide?

- Insurance not already covered by a volunteer’s personal insurance
- Orientation, training, and updates for volunteers
- Service Coordinators and the technology that enables the matching of member requests to volunteer applications/profiles to best insure successful delivery on the requests
- Fundraising and Local Village Budget
- Mentoring to Local Villages, Webpage and email account support

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- One of our representatives will call or meet with you to answer any questions and provide any guidance needed to complete a provided Volunteer Application
- Complete and submit the Volunteer Application
- Receive a Westerly Village Volunteer badge, once vetting and training are completed