

WESTCHESTER VILLAGE NETWORK “AGING IN PLACE” INITIATIVE 2009 FACT SHEET

What is the Westchester Village Network? We are a new non-profit organization founded by volunteer Westchester residents, with the mission of helping Westchester/Playa Del Rey senior citizens stay in their own homes as they grow older.

How does the program work? This innovative program is modeled after several successful national programs. It provides seniors with vibrant at-home living in their own communities, assisted by their own neighbors, under the direction of a staff manager. The Network provides resources and support needed for seniors to remain independent and active in our own community, rather than living in an isolated retirement community.

The opportunity: This is a program that is designed to simplify life's complexities through the development of a self-help organization. Seniors in need can receive temporary or long term assistance with errands like health appointments, grocery shopping, garden care and pet care from participating neighbors in the Network. They can also have access to pre-screened vendors for other types of assistance, such as in-home medical care and housecleaning.

The advantages of the program: This program is cost-effective and provides a safe, comfortable and more dignified life style for the seniors in their own homes. The extended family of the affected seniors can feel more secure about their safety. The program is based in the local community and is not mired in bureaucracy.

How is this program funded? This is a relatively low cost program, since it relies on a lot of volunteer support. Other national program models have received support through Network membership fees, foundation grants, individual donations, and contributions from city, county and federal government sources.

Why do we need this program now? The idea is to build the enterprise before you need it. With all the baby boomers, our population is aging rapidly and we need to plan now for the future. Out of a population of forty thousand, 14% are 60 and over which WVN can serve.

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