



Exploring Life Beyond Adulthood

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It Takes a Village To Disrupt Aging

Published by **Kavan Peterson, Editor, ChangingAging.org** on May 1, 2015 | **27 Responses** | **Edit**

It Takes a Village | IN Close



The coolest part of managing Dr. Bill Thomas' **Age of Disruption Tour** is getting to take the pulse of 30 different communities nationwide and feel their excitement and learn about their efforts to change aging.

I can tell you that the communities with the strongest pulse have something unique in common: they are members of the grassroots **Village**

to Village Network.

Village to Village Network as a national movement with local roots. All Villages are formed by individuals coming together as a community and choosing to take control of their own future, as a community, rather than go it alone and hope for the best.

There are 200 operating Villages and countless more are being organized by individuals just like you in hundreds of communities across the nation. There's probably one underway in your neighborhood right now.

When I moved to Seattle last year I became active in the **PNA Village** in my neighborhood as a member, volunteer and board member. I enjoy being a younger member of the Village advocating for a more intergenerational approach to **"aging in community"**.

Last night our local PBS station ran a wonderful news magazine story on the Village movement featuring my Village. One of the stories it shared was about 89-year-old member Wilma Bishop, who had to give up driving after falling:

Suddenly, errands that were part of her daily life became obstacles. Wilma had no way to get around. Her daughter lives in West Seattle but wasn't able to spend her days driving her mother to her various destinations, and transporting groceries on the bus was too daunting for Wilma to consider.

"I need to get to the grocery store," Bishop says. "It keeps me from going



The Village to Village Network is a national grass-roots network run by local communities. Each network is slightly different, offering different memberships and services, but they are all membership-driven. To find a network, see the **Village to Village directory**.

into some sort of retirement facility, which I do not want if I can help it.”

*Luckily, Bishop is a member of the **Phinney Neighborhood Association**, or PNA. The PNA has a program called **PNA Village**, a part of the national **Village to Village network**, that helps seniors stay in their home and community. The program has a strong network of volunteers who assist seniors with non-medical tasks such as yard work, minor repair work, or rides. The network also provides seniors with access to a vetted vendor list for more professional needs that includes electricians, dog walkers or tech support.*



Rachel, a PNA Volunteer, helps Wilma with groceries. Courtesy of KCTS9 In
Close

Wilma joined the PNA Village and now has three different volunteers who help her run errands and continue living in her home. This is not “independent” living, but

richer and more rewarding “interdependent” living.

Supporting the Village to Village Network and local Villages is one of the goals of the Age of Disruption Tour. In several cities, including Seattle and Portland, we’re donating all the ticket revenues from the Tour events to local Villages like the PNA Village, **NEST Village**, **Wider Horizons Village** and **Villages NW** in Portland.

Each tour stop also includes a **community engagement lunch** with Bill and the Village movement is one of the most frequently discussed topics. Next week at Chicago’s May 8 tour stop, our lunch will be hosted in partnership with **Lincoln Park Village**, a national model for a successful V. (and one of our best local partners during the Second Wind Tour!). We are also

encouraging everyone we meet who is interested in the Village Network or already active in a Village to help grow the movement by attending the **2015 National Village Gathering**, which coincidentally is being held right here in Seattle October 5-7.

Check out the great KCTS video above or read the **full story here**. Special thanks to my friend Stacey Jenkins, the talented producer who shot this story and a fellow parent at my daughter’s elementary school. That’s right, it takes a Village!

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Article written by **Kavan Peterson, Editor, ChangingAging.org**



Kavan is a social media entrepreneur committed to growing the use of social networking towards promoting the equality, sustainability, health and well being of people of all ages. Combining careers as a national journalist and public relations expert, Kavan focuses on the power of user-generated content to communicate ideas and build movements.

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27 Responses

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Jennifer Berg

May 15, 2015 at 4:14 pm | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Reply](#)

Super Excited about developing VtV in Stokesdale, NC. Let's keep this revolution rolling!



HealthyNaL

May 11, 2015 at 2:26 pm | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#)

It Takes a Village To Disrupt Aging: <http://t.co/PYRXfFKrZS> via @ChangingAging



VillagesNWOR

May 11, 2015 at 6:01 am | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#)

It Takes a Village To Disrupt Aging: <http://t.co/A95pPOBdOp> via @ChangingAging



VillageNoWalls

May 11, 2015 at 5:53 am | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#)

It Takes a Village To Disrupt Aging: <http://t.co/nWXaNSowDv> via @ChangingAging



ageofdisruption

May 8, 2015 at 5:11 am | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#)

RT @CarebuildAtHome: @ChangingAging via @drbillthomas continue nationwide tour to engage communities and make a change for #seniors <http://...>



eahsaeu

May 6, 2015 at 6:42 am | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#)

It Takes a Village To Disrupt Aging: <http://t.co/F9oEdTAN08> via @ChangingAging

**VarsityBranding**

May 6, 2015 at 6:01 am | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#)

Members of this #grassroots organization are encouraging #community, urging people to take control of #aging: <http://t.co/fiVwt1F0gP>.

**Lucky**

May 4, 2015 at 11:22 am | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Reply](#)

Hi Kavan & Bill,

Great work! Publisizing the real advantages of the village movement is really great. There is a great village in Petaluma. But, I think it also important to note the cost. Some villages exclude people because they don't have the money to pay the monthly dues.

I am such a person, locked down by a fixed income.

l/d

**Kavan Peterson, Editor, ChangingAging.org**

May 4, 2015 at 1:36 pm | [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Reply](#)

Thanks for sharing that comment Lucky! My Village has a reduced