

Social Ministry for Older Adults Care Connections Network & the Village Model

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AGING. BETTER.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Many of us having aging congregations
- How do we want to experience the process of aging?
- What can help us age with self determination?

Age structure and median age of U.S. religious groups

% of U.S. adults in each religious group who are ages 18-29, 30-49, 50-64 and 65 or older

	Ages				Median age
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	
Presbyterian Church in America	11%	18%	32%	39%	59
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	8	24	30	38	59
United Church of Christ	10	23	36	31	59
Anglican Church	8	30	28	33	57
United Methodist Church	9	29	30	32	57
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	10	32	28	30	56
Episcopal Church	9	26	31	35	56
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	12	27	30	31	55

Our Story

- Recognizing the need
- Deciding we could do it better
- Embracing “outside the box” thinking
- Intentional social ministry for older adults based on a grass-roots community model

The Village

- CCN is a Village
 - Grassroots membership organization that connects older adults to the community, programming and expertise they need to continue living life on their own terms in the places they call home



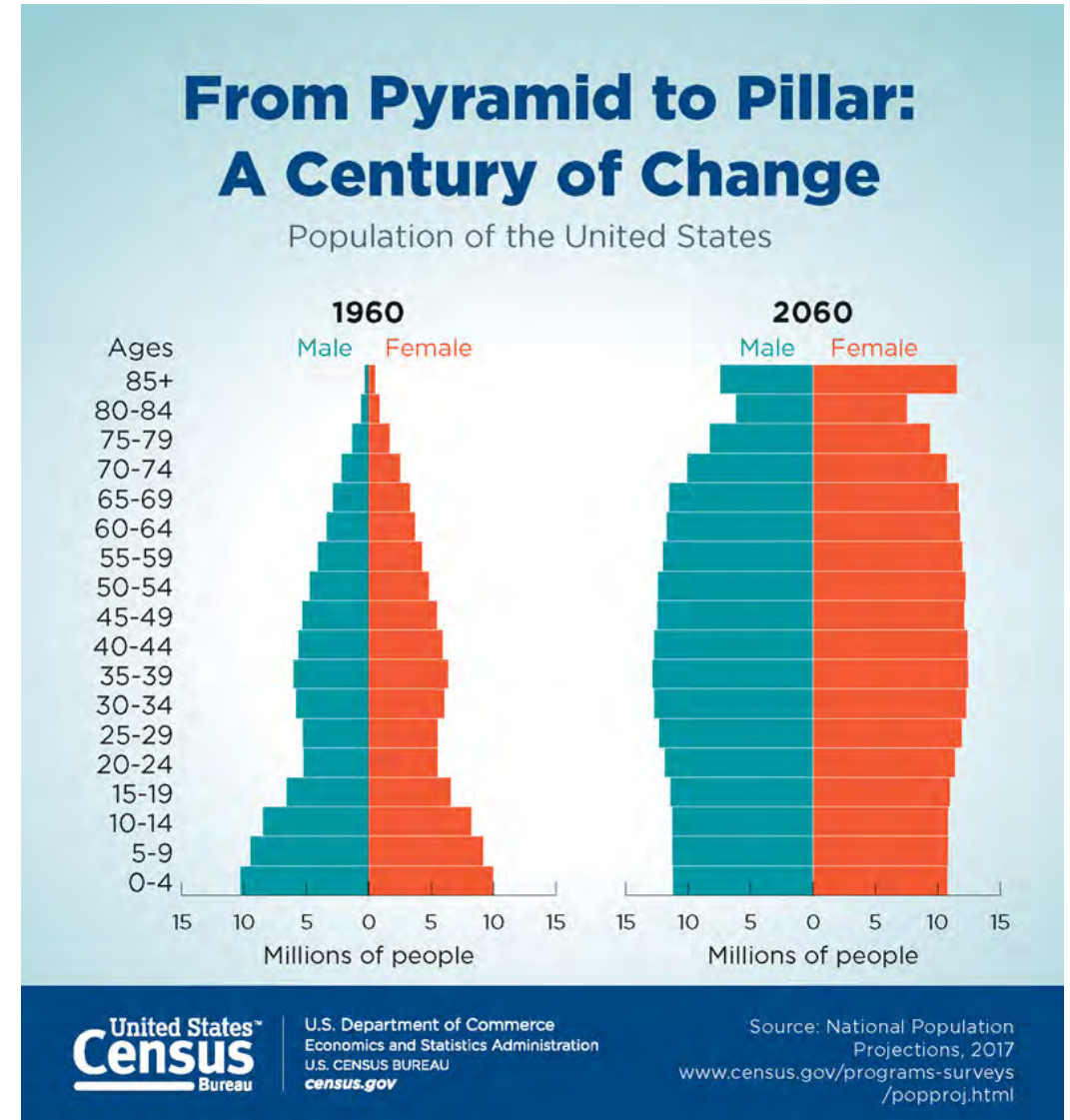
Why Villages are Needed

- **Demographics**

- From the year 2000 to the year 2020 population of Americans age 55-64 will have grown 73%!
- By 2030, 72 million of us (1 out of every 5 in the U.S.) will be at least 65 years old!

- **Social isolation and loneliness**

- **The Village Model addresses the desire to remain independent and active in our communities by providing support and enhancing quality of life**



The Village Movement

- The Village Movement started with Beacon Hill Village in Boston over 20 years ago
- Village to Village Network
- Village Movement California



Social Isolation and Loneliness

- Social isolation and loneliness are a public health epidemic
- Negative health impacts include
 - High Blood Pressure
 - Heart Disease
 - Diabetes
 - Sleep Problems
 - Depression and Anxiety
 - Substance Abuse

Socially Isolated/Lonely People Have a Higher Risk of

- Needing long-term care
- Increased ER visits
- Becoming a victim of fraud
- Experiencing elder abuse
- Dementia and early death

Why Are So Many Living Alone?

- Higher divorce rates
- People are choosing not to marry or have children or are having fewer children
- Families are moving farther apart
- Adult children are not available (too busy)

How Do We Get There?

- Loss of a loved one
- Loss of income/retirement
- Loss of a driver's license/lack of access to transportation
- Cognitive and psychological challenges
- Sensory impairment (hearing, eyesight)

Villages Can Be an Antidote!

- Intentional caring communities
- These connections preserve choice and self-determination
- Social integration and connection



Care Connections Network

- Mission
 - CCN is dedicated to helping older adults age in their own homes and communities as they continue lives of purpose and promise
 - Aging. Better.



Our Program

- Educational
- Social
- Preferred Service Providers
- Volunteers
- We “connect the dots”



Connecting the Dots

Community Partnerships and Affiliations

- Local Community
 - Hoag Hospital
 - Council on Aging
 - Alzheimer's Center
 - Many more
- Faith Community
 - Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - Lutheran Services in America
- Village Affiliations
 - Village to Village Network
 - Village Movement California



A Member's Story...



God's Work, Our Hands

Congregations and Villages

- We have a great history of social ministry
- Opportunity to serve the congregation and the larger community
- Congregations in many ways act as informal villages
- Most congregations have aging populations

CCN Organization

- Basic Structure
 - Working board of directors
 - One part time paid contract employee to serve as director
 - Income from membership dues, congregational support, grant funding and private donations
- Villages can be structured in many ways



Reciprocal Relationship

- LCR provides
 - Monthly financial support (approximately 1/3 of CCN operating budget)
 - Office space including utilities, meeting and event space
 - Access to the congregation for membership and volunteers
- CCN provides
 - Provides a social ministry to the congregation
 - Acts as an outreach to the larger community for service opportunities and source of potential new members
 - Provides access to CCN community resources/partners

Starting a Faith-Based Village

First Steps

- Determine need in the congregation and community
 - Congregational focused ministry or community organization?
- Develop support
- Identify leadership
- Form a development committee
- Investigate potential sources for funding
 - Grants, private donors, congregational financial support, community organizations, membership dues
- Determine the services to be offered
- Write a mission statement, business plan and initial budget

Next Steps...

- Develop a working board of directors
- Consider joining the Village to Village Network
- Define procedures
- Begin outreach and marketing
- Develop community partners to “connect the dots”
 - Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, hospitals including parish/community nurse programs, Alzheimer’s Association, local universities

Some Bumps Along the Road

- Challenges will arise!
 - Membership structure caused challenges
 - Governance and nonprofit status
 - Social ministry or community organization?
- Be flexible!
 - To meet the needs of our members, CCN ultimately evolved into something much different than we had originally imagined

Empowered Aging

- A better experience of aging is possible!



Questions?

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