

# Aging in Community

Leveraging Our Talents, Wisdom, Skills and Deep Roots in the Community We Love

Nine years ago, a group of civic minded residents from Dupont Circle gathered to discuss ways that they could remain in their homes as they got older. The community Village idea received a lot of discussion and had broad appeal among the group. Today, Dupont Circle Village builds neighborly networks of social connections and support because people who are connected to their community live happier and healthier lives.

"We are most grateful to the volunteers for their friendship and their time. Their help has made it easier for Dad to keep his independence and stay in his apartment of 34 years. We think the village model is wonderful, and we only wish it were available in more cities across the country."

### Ella's Story\* (member since 2015)

Her engaging smile, charming politeness and lively intellect immediately captivated the DCV team assembled to help her. Ella is a former academic from South America and, supported by caring family members, she built a meaningful life in Washington filled with music, art and studying history, including that of her adopted country. She loves politics and is fascinated by this year's election. "When and how did the American South change from Democrat to Republican," she asked during a recent visit. Ella knew about the Village for some time before joining, but as serious medical problems piled up, her daughter convinced her to give us a second look. Her eyesight was failing and she could no longer read even large-type books or use a computer. Her hearing was failing and hearing aids mitigated but didn't resolve



discussing the problem. She needs to use a walker beyond her apartment, which severely limits her mobility.

The Village formed a team of volunteers to work with Ella. Some drive her to multiple medical appointments, others join her for weekly visits that can include reading books, current events, listening to audio history lectures, or talking about family and friends. Villagers have taken her to lunch, to concerts and for walks in the neighborhood. When Ella was sick recently, homemade chicken broth quickly appeared in her kitchen.

Dupont Circle Village has made a big difference in Ella's life. She knows she can depend on us when she needs transportation for medical appointments or wants to discuss concerns she has about the future. Most of all, she knows she has Village team members who care deeply about her and are making it possible for her to remain in her home. Age may diminish capabilities but the Village always enhances and enriches the lives of the people we serve.

\*not her real name

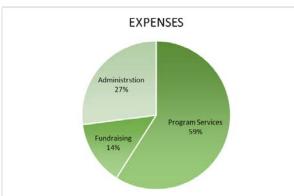
# **Volunteer Services**

Home Maintenance
Care Groups
Transportation
Friendly Visits
Administrative Support
Tech Support
Pet Care
House Sitting
Monthly Newsletter

# VOLUNTEER SERVICES Escort/Home Care 21% Visits 20% Transportation 17% Home Maintenance 11% Errands 10% Technology Assistance 9% Reading 5% Other (Grocery Shopping, Shoveling, Pet Help) 7%



Number of volunteer hours (1/1/2016 o 10/31/2016): 1, 367



DCV programs are run by our members as volunteers. The amount shown for Program Services does not reflect the major amount of time and effort of our members in planning and running the programs of DCV. DCV does not pay speakers and uses donated space for almost all of our programs.

# **Programming**

Live and Learn Seminars
Emergency Preparedness
TedTalks
Senior Yoga
Walking Groups
Health & Wellness
Falls Prevention
Tech Tuesday
Knitting Group

## **Events**

Annual Gala
Ice Cream Social
Holiday Party
Fall Meeting
Wine Tastings
Sunday Soup Salons
Robbie Burns Night
Mad Hatter Tea
New Member Dinners

## **Our Branches are Wide!**



We Cast A Large Shadow!





**Our Roots Run Deep!**