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PRESS RELEASE

Home in Hilliard Launches to Support Older Adults in Our Community

Hilliard, Ohio – Home in Hilliard officially launched this month, introducing a new service organization dedicated to helping older adults in the City of Hilliard remain independent, connected, and engaged in their own homes and community.

At the helm of this initiative is Ginny Favede, a former elected official who has served as a City of St. Clairsville Councilwoman, Belmont County Commissioner, and President of Wheeling University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The Ohio State University, an MBA from Wheeling University, and an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Wheeling University. Throughout her career, in every capacity she has served, Ginny's work has been grounded in her genuine love for helping others. Returning to her roots in servant leadership and guided by a personal passion for advocating for older adults, she has taken on the role of the first Executive Director of Home in Hilliard.

"I believe that one of the most meaningful contributions we can make is to empower older adults to live well, remain active and stay engaged in their community," said Ginny. "Home in Hilliard is about neighbors helping neighbors, ensuring that growing older in Hilliard means staying connected, supported and valued."

What Home in Hilliard is and what our mission is

Home in Hilliard is a membership-based, volunteer-driven organization that provides practical support and social connection for older adults living in Hilliard who wish to age in place. Our mission is to enable older residents of Hilliard to live independently, safely and with dignity in their own homes and community, while maintaining active relationships and contributing through volunteer engagement.

Services include:

- Volunteer-provided transportation to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, bank visits and local errands (at a fraction of the cost of commercial ride-share options)
- Friendly in-person visits and phone calls to offer social connection and reduce isolation
- Light household support such as watering plants, pet feeding, simple chores around the home
- IT and technology coaching to help older adults stay connected to loved ones and community
- Social, educational and wellness programs to keep members active, engaged and purposeful

Membership is offered on a fee basis: \$25 per month (or \$300 annually) for a single and \$37.50/month (or \$450 annually) for a couple. At this time membership offers unlimited access to our services — providing exceptional value compared to typical costs for ride-shares or private services. For example, local data show older-adult ride-share usage averages fares around \$10-\$12 per trip (one way) in similar settings.

Because our volunteers are local members of the Hilliard community, the model is not vulnerable to government shutdowns and remains cost-effective and resilient.

If you have an aging parent living in the Hilliard area, purchasing an annual membership for them brings peace of mind. They will have reliable help when needed, a friendly face to check in with, and a ride when required — all while remaining in the home they love.

The Village Model: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Home in Hilliard is based on the “village” model of aging in place, which has grown across the country. Originating with Beacon Hill Village in Boston, this grassroots community-movement empowers older adults to stay at home, connected, and supported through neighbor-to-neighbor networks.

Villages are membership-driven, non-profit organizations staffed largely by trained volunteers, offering services such as transportation, light home maintenance, technology assistance and social activities. Although the movement remains relatively small compared to the scale of need (one report noted 268 villages with more than 40,000 members in the U.S. as of 2022) , the model has proven impact: members report increased confidence about aging in place, reduced isolation and enhanced purpose of life.

By bringing this model to Hilliard, Home in Hilliard fills a critical local gap.

Why this matters—both for members and volunteers

Research underscores that social isolation and negative beliefs about aging have real, measurable consequences. According to Becca Levy in *Breaking the Age Code: How Your Age Beliefs Determine How Long & Well You Live*, older adults who hold more positive beliefs about aging are significantly more likely to recover from disability and cognitive decline

By providing older adults with meaningful opportunities for engagement, social connection and volunteer support, Home in Hilliard promotes those positive age beliefs, supports independent living and reduces isolation.

For volunteers, the village model offers a chance to serve, to build community connections and to experience the sense of meaning that comes from helping neighbors remain thriving and engaged. It creates intergenerational bridges, strengthens community bonds and provides volunteers with purpose.

As Ginny explains:

“I was raised by an older mother – she was 45 when I was born – and as the youngest of ten siblings I watched how our mother aged and how, when I left for college, she was more alone. If an organization like Home in Hilliard had existed then, I would gladly have paid the membership to know she had the help she needed and someone checking in on her.

A call to action

Home in Hilliard is now accepting members, volunteers and supporters. If you live in Hilliard and want to stay independent and connected as you age, please consider joining as a member. If you are a Hilliard resident who wants to give back by volunteering, we welcome you to apply and join our rigorous training process. If you are a community organization, business or individual interested in supporting our mission, we would love to partner with you.

Together we can build a stronger, more connected Hilliard where aging means possibility, not isolation; where community means belonging and support; and where every resident — young, middle-aged or older — contributes to a culture of thriving.

For more information, visit [HomeinHilliard.org](https://homeinhilliard.org) or contact Ginny at gabby.favede@homeinhilliard.org or (740) 359-8185.

About Home in Hilliard

Home in Hilliard is a nonprofit, membership-based service organization for older adults in Hilliard, Ohio. Guided by the village model, it provides transportation, technology help, friendly visits, light home-support services and social connection through a network of trained local volunteers. Its mission is to enable older adults to live independently, remain connected and continue contributing to their community.