



A Community #ForAllAges

August 2018

Friendship Centers launch an Intergenerational Pilot Project with a Unique Mission

The Friendship Centers has launched an exciting pilot project with a unique mission: to use the power of intergenerational relationships to address the affordable housing needs of young professionals and older homeowners in Sarasota. Using a homeshare model, the project assists participants to create a private domestic arrangement to share living space. The project seeks to expand the affordable housing options for young professionals who are often priced out of the Sarasota housing market while offering senior homeowners additional income to maintaining living at home.



The first Homeshare programs were initiated in 1972 by Maggie Kuhn, the founder of the Gray Panthers. Today Homeshare programs exist all over the world, including more than 40 currently operating in the United States. Participants in Homeshare housing report many benefits: increased quality of life, more independent living, and enhanced financial stability.

The project is an answer to the [Age-Friendly Sarasota County Action Plan](#) call for the creation of alternative living options including shared housing and intergenerational housing opportunities.

Through the HomeShare Project, [Friendship Centers](#) facilitates matches between home providers and home sharers. A good match will offer participants safety, stability, comfort, and increased quality of life.

Project services provided by the Friendship Centers:

- Conducting an application process with reference and background checks
- Helping participants identify their homeshare needs and preferences
- Providing guidance on finding a good match
- Offering regular follow up and support once a homeshare arrangement begins

Project participants will be asked to share with Friendship Centers' staff information about

Project participants will be asked to share with Friendship Centers' staff information about their experience to help evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

HomeShare Project Eligibility Requirements

Home Providers must own their own home and have extra space to share including a private bath and bedroom. To participate, home providers must be at least 60 years old and live in one of the following zip codes: 34231, 34232, 34233, 34234, 34235, 34236, 34237, 34238, 34239, and 34242.

Home Sharers must be willing to pay a mutually agreed upon monthly rent to the Home Provider. To participate, home sharers must be 23-40 years old and either single or a couple without children.

People interested in applying for the Homeshare program can [fill out the inquiry form](#) or call 941-556-3208.

The Homeshare Project also offers many exciting volunteer opportunities for those interested in being part of a collaborative volunteer team helping to build a new program from the ground up. Each volunteer will receive training and will work closely with the Homeshare Coordinator. To volunteer, or learn more about the HomeShare Project contact efarrar@friendshipcenters.org or call 941-556-3208.

By Evan Farrar, M.A., HomeShare Coordinator, Friendship Centers



CONNECTING

Meaningful Changes Toward Shared Aspirations

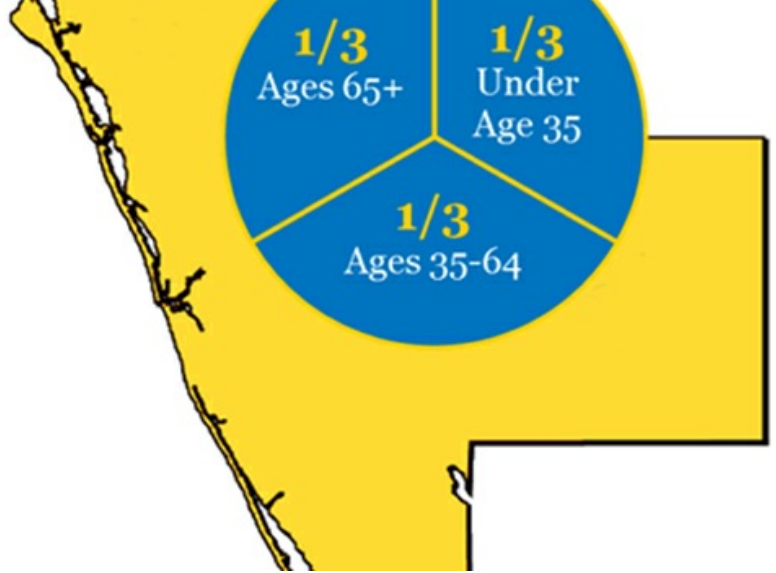
AFS is strengthened each time a Sarasotian contributes their wisdom to the [Age-Friendly Draft Progress Report](#).

Sarasota County became Florida's first community to join this global age-friendly movement in 2015. Besides having a unique geographic beauty, Sarasota County also has a unique *demographic* beauty -- a rare population mix that is one-third under 35 and one-third over 65.

Our county's age-related symmetry can be a great asset as each of us has a valuable perspective to contribute to creating a community #ForAllAges.

[Enhance our community by providing your feedback](#) by 5pm Friday, August 17.





Contribute to the
Draft Progress Report

LOCAL

Cultivating an Age-Friendly Environment



"You've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me. Stick together we can see it through, you've got a friend in me." -- Randy Newman

One way to strive to build a lifelong age-friendly community is to remember we all need friends at all ages and stages of life. Being mindful to include people of all ages in active, social activities will foster positive images of aging, intergenerational understanding, and help break the stigma

NATIONAL

August is #FamilyFunMonth



Family Fun Month is celebrated annually throughout the month of August. With the summer holiday ending and school beginning, it's an excellent way to adjust to the change and also enjoy the family with an extra dash of enthusiasm.

Need ideas?

- have a BBQ and watch a movie together in the backyard
- visit a park
- build an indoor fort out of blankets and read out loud together
- take a family bike ride
- go fishing

associated with aging.

The Age-Friendly Draft Progress Report includes the goals, objectives, and strategies for *Social Participation*, the seventh Domain of Livability.

- Increase awareness of intergenerational activities
- Improve accuracy and widely publicize activities
- Ensure conveniently located and affordable activities
- Increase activities specifically geared towards older Sarasotians with a focus on well-being
- Embed opportunities for people in Sarasota to serve as "connectors" and find where you might be able to contribute

Educate yourself by reviewing the [AFS Action Plan Progress Report](#). [Your feedback is encouraged.](#)



- take a long walk
- make a talent show
- cook meals together
- have a karaoke night

Use your imagination, spend time together, and most importantly have fun!

GLOBAL

As cultures vary, so do the ways in which aging is viewed.



(5-minute video)

Arigatou International organized a week-long 'Intergenerational Dialogue' where age didn't matter. Participants were able to share their personal stories, thoughts and feelings, without having to fear the judgement of others. In this exercise, each made the choice to "*listen to learn, rather than listen to reply.*"

The experience opened their hearts and minds -- allowing the group to realize, that despite age differences, they have more in common than they thought.

To share news or information, contact the editor at ssternberg@thepattersonfoundation.org.