



**2013 Annual Awards Entry Form**  
(Complete one for each entry.)

Entry Name Communities For A Lifetime

HFA Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

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Entry form with description, check(s), and visual aids (optional) must be received by NCSHA by **Monday, July 1, 2013**.

Use this header on the upper right corner of each page.

HFA IHCDA

Entry Name Communities for a Lifetime

Communications	Homeownership	Legislative Advocacy	Management Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report <input type="checkbox"/> Promotional Materials and Newsletters <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Empowering New Buyers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home Improvement and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> State Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Technology
Rental Housing	Special Needs Housing	Special Achievement	Are you providing visual aids?
<input type="checkbox"/> Multifamily Management <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Combating Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for Persons with Special Needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Achievement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES (included in PDF) <input type="checkbox"/> NO

# Communities For a Lifetime

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Since 2010, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority made Aging in Place one of their four funding priorities. With the foresight and eagerness to help prepare Indiana communities with the phenomenon of the aging baby boomers, IHCDA was determined to help support physical and social environments for the aging population and persons with disabilities where they can remain healthy and independent community residents throughout their lifespan. The extent to which they can actively participate in community life is determined, in part by how well their physical environment accommodates them and the level of services they need.

Between 2005 and 2040 Indiana's population will grow by 15 percent. During that same time, our 65 and older population will grow by an astonishing 90 percent. As the negative impacts of sprawling development patterns fall especially hard on senior populations, many communities find themselves ill-prepared to accommodate the needs that the aging Baby Boomers will demand. The paradigm from institutional care to aging in place is changing from both demands by the baby boomers, who do not want to move into an institutional setting and want to remain active members of their communities and from also the healthcare and government levels in trying to manage and reduce costs institutional settings require.

Since such a large component to the success of aging in place is one's physical and built environment, IHCDA felt they had an opportunity to assist communities in helping to address physical barriers that exist within the home by providing resources to communities to provide an owner occupied repair program. Since 2010, IHCDA has assisted 500 homes throughout the state in assisting homeowners in making health and safety repairs such as addressing and remediating lead based paint hazards, mold assessment and remediation, repairing or replacing non-functioning furnaces, addressing electrical system hazards and building code violations, plumbing deficiencies to help ensure the home was suitable to remain occupied for several years to come. The program also assisted in addressing accessibility modifications such as ensuring access to the entry door with ramps, paths, etc., emergency alert systems, updating systems needed for necessary medical equipment, grab bars and stability apparatus, roll-in shower units, and modifying counter heights. Through the Aging in Place Owner Occupied Repair program, IHCDA has contributed more than \$7 million to over 40 Indiana communities to help residents remain active community members throughout their lifespan.

While the built environment is certainly an important component to successful aging in place, equally important is the need for adequate services. While there was such a demand and success throughout Indiana with the Aging in Place Owner Occupied Repair program, IHCDA recognized that in order to create truly Aging in Place communities, a more comprehensive approach needed to be addressed to ensure that both the physical and service pieces were being offered, because aging in place cant truly be successful without either of these pieces. Therefore IHCDA broadened the AIP OOR program by working closely with statewide aging and disability organizations. This collaboration led to the creation of the Communities for a Lifetime Program.

With the help of partners around the state, IHCDA identified several areas of need with respect to creating livable communities where everyone can have the opportunity to age in place. These included unsupportive community design, unaffordable and inaccessible housing, and lack of access to needed services.

Dr. Phil Stafford, Director of the Center on Aging and Community at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community is working tirelessly with his colleagues and members of IHCDA to create a model of working with individual communities to examine their long term livability, walkability, and ability to adapt to the changing needs of the local population and surrounding areas with the goal of being a Community for a Lifetime.

Stafford's efforts and study on the topic of aging communities paired with research collected from various community partners prompted IHCDA to launch the Communities for a Lifetime Program and included the collaboration and partnership of several state-wide aging and disability organizations.

A Community for a Lifetime is a place that promotes physical, social, mental and economic well-being for persons with all abilities, across the entire lifespan. A pilot program launched by IHCDA in March of 2012, the first of its kind in Indiana, awarded the cities of Linton, Huntington, and Valparaiso planning grants ranging from \$10,000-\$16,000 to study ways to make their communities friendly for residents of all ages and abilities, and to generate Implementation Plans which would turn vision into action. *(The plans for each community are located in Exhibit A of this document.)*

This program has furthered the Aging in Place priority through a comprehensive approach in addressing the needs for older individuals to age in place, not only within their home but within their community. The program focuses on owner occupied repair along with community improvements such as sidewalk repair, proving services and activities geared to the aging population to remain active members of their community as they continue to age.

"We have reviewed the Implementation Plans and are happy to report that we have selected all three communities to receive funding to help achieve their goals," said Megan Coler, North East Real Estate Analyst who is spearheading the initiative for IHCDA. "With the Communities for a Lifetime designation, we hope this will open further partnerships and especially funding opportunities for the three cities."

"I am thrilled to be a part of this initiative with IHCDA as we put Indiana at the leading edge of the growing age-friendly/ability-friendly community movement," said Stafford. "I look forward to the efforts of the Communities for a Lifetime becoming a blueprint for communities across Indiana to make the necessary adjustments to demographic and population changes." Already, the leadership of IHCDA has been invaluable to Indiana's selection by the Grantmakers in Aging as one of five states to receive \$200,000 in funding for additional planning and expansion of the Aging in Place movement in 2013.

## Exhibit A –

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### Communities for a Lifetime Planning Overviews

#### Huntington, located in NE Indiana (Huntington Co)

Huntington identified a neighborhood called *Drover Town*, where a large aging population resides and will focus their projects within this area. They are currently working on starting a 2-year Owner Occupied Repair program and accessibility improvements, such as replacing sidewalks where cracks and tree roots have crumbled the concrete and adding ADA curb cuts and crossings. Huntington is also creating Neighborhood Action Plans to pull the neighbors together and further plan for projects that could be carried out at a grass-roots level. They are also piloting the Hoosiertyzze Online Network that creates a website where the individuals, the elderly, caretakers, healthcare providers, and service providers can access and communicate between one another. The city is also working on a Public Transportation Needs Assessment to evaluate where and how to expand their public transportation. Totaled, these projects are worth around \$875,000. IHCDA has identified that through the state's funding programs and activities, the agency could help with the OOR program through CDBG funds and provide funding for the sidewalk replacement program (\$22,000) from the Development Fund.

#### Linton, located in Southwest IN (Greene Co.)

Linton is a very small, rural town of about 3,000 people but they have been working hard and have many dedicated leaders working on aging issues in their community. Linton boasts a wonderful little art center in their old Carnegie library building which is often used for events. The city is working with Indiana Landmarks to improve the Carnegie Art Center with an accessible entrance and through expanding their programs to engage older and younger generations through different art activities, with support from the Indiana Arts Council. The city is home to a well-used community and senior center and through their grant is planning to purchase additional equipment for the center. Linton planners are also looking to construct an outdoor walking path adjacent to the senior center for aerobic activity.

Linton has a very popular community pool that offers older adult swim and aerobic classes, so in the plans are accessibility improvements and installing an aquatic lift for older and disabled individuals. They are working with INDOT on expanding their Safe Routes to School program to include a Walking School Bus, which pairs older volunteers with walking kids to school. In addition to these community based improvements, Linton is also working on an owner occupied repair program, looking to expand their public transportation voucher program, and creating an Entrepreneurial Study to help retired individuals starting up second careers and looking at available space downtown for these ventures. Together, their entire program includes roughly \$502,497 worth of projects. IHCDA is looking to potentially help with CDBG funds the OOR program and the Community Center, Aquatic Lift, and Entrepreneurial Feasibility study through Development Fund.

Valparaiso, located in NW Indiana

Valparaiso is the largest community in NW Indiana. They had a slightly different approach to their Communities for a Lifetime planning. They created a community based plan around 2008 called the *ElderStyle Initiative*, and have been working throughout the community in different capacities to create a more age-friendly Valparaiso. They have been working to bring together all service providers and creating a resource directory, expanding their community center to offer classes for young kids to older adults, and are working to expand their public transportation to include evenings and weekends. The planning group has been working closely with the City in adopting more accessible city codes, in which they are expanding their sidewalks to 6 feet wide for better wheelchair and stroller use. Valparaiso identified one project area in which they needed assistance, which included installing seven LifeTrail Wellness Exercise Units along their popular community trail. These improvements will be age and disability friendly work-out stations with equipment along the path to help improve mobility and increase exercise opportunities across from the community center. The total project is just under \$100,000 and IHCDA would be able to help with some of the costs for the equipment and installation through the Development Fund.

## Exhibit B

(Article from Green County Daily World)

### **Linton designated as a Community for a Lifetime**

Thursday, February 14, 2013

By Nick Schneider, Assistant Editor



(By Nick Schneider) The City of Linton was recently designated as one of three cities in the state to receive a Indiana Community for a Lifetime grant. Shown with a plaque denoting the honor from left is Linton City Council President Fred Markle, Linton Mayor John Wilkes and Linton resident Noble Stallons, a member of Generations Advisory Board of Directors and facilitator for the grant application. The trio attended a ceremony in Indianapolis and accepted the award to start the planning phase. [[Order this photo](#)]

Linton City and Vincennes University's Generations Area Agency on Aging were in Indianapolis last Friday to accept designation as an Indiana Community for a Lifetime from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

Linton was one of three communities in the state to earn the designation.

A Community for a Lifetime is a place that promotes physical, social, mental and economic well-being for persons with all abilities, across the entire lifespan.

Linton Mayor John Wilkes, City Council President Fred Markle and Linton resident Noble Stallons, a member of Generations Advisory Board of Directors and facilitator for the grant application attended a ceremony in Indianapolis and accepted an award memento to start the planning phase.

Linton, Huntington and Valparaiso were each awarded \$18,000 planning grants to build upon existing initiatives in addressing aging in place issues.

The communities were selected through a competitive process that solicited letters of intent from the communities which focused on aging or related issues such as disabilities, accessibility issues, transportation, intergenerational activities, recreation, housing and community involvement.

Linton's application for a \$300,000 Community For a Lifetime Grant pertains primarily to persons with disabilities and the elderly, according to Stallons.

"We are very happy to receive this designation," Stallons stated.

There are several big projects included in the grant, including continuation of home improvements, which focuses on safety inside and outside the home.

The previous grant that the city received was for the designated north area (of the city). This one will cover the entire city limits, according to Stallons.

Stallons said one focus of the implementation part of the grant will be to make Carnegie Heritage Arts Center ADA compliant. In addition, installation of a splash aquatic lift at the city swimming pool to assist the wellness for persons with disabilities is among the proposed initiatives.

Other initiative included in the grant include: Art supplies for students at Carnegie Heritage and Arts Center, expand exercise and fitness opportunities as well as increased walking opportunities at William T. Murphy Community Center at Glenburn Home, a walking bus program, downtown partnership, a transportation voucher program, entrepreneurial feasibility study and marketing the 2-1-1 services in Linton.

Megan Koller, IHCED's Real Estate Production Analysts, who directs the Community for a Lifetime program, said all three designated communities had a lot of work done previously, which make their applications more attractive.

Mayor Wilkes called the designation very important for the future of the city.

He said it ties in well with the city's efforts to become an Indiana Main Street community.

"It's going to open up the door for grants," Wilkes said. "Just being selected for this puts us way up there as far as the state goes (with grants)."

IHCED representative Greg Majewski was in Linton on Thursday to sit down with local officials and determine which of the actual initiatives will be pursued with future grant funding. For the items that IHCED can't fund, the city will be given assistance in finding other avenues of funding, according to Wilkes.

## Exhibit C

(Article #2 from Green County Daily World)

### **Linton's Lifetime Community Grant to bring \$332,474 to the city**

Thursday, February 28, 2013

By Nick Schneider, Assistant Editor

Linton officials now know that home improvements for the elderly and disabled will be the focus of the recently announced Indiana Community for a Lifetime Grant from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

The grant was a joint effort of the city of Linton and Vincennes University's Generations Area Agency on Aging. Linton was one of three communities in the state to earn the designation.

Linton Mayor John Wilkes said he met with Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority members Tuesday and learned the grant award will total \$332,474.

Of that amount, \$300,000 has been earmarked for a home improvement program for the elderly, low income and disabled, and will focus on safety assessment both inside and outside homes.

"We can use this money to renovate homes for the disabled and the elderly," Wilkes said.

Each homeowner is limited to \$20,000, so Wilkes says this grant will go a long way to serve a large number of individuals.

Wilkes is not sure how the rest of the money will be distributed to address the other initiatives that included: Making Carnegie Heritage Arts Center ADA compliant; installation of a splash aquatic lift at the city swimming pool to assist the wellness for persons with disabilities; art supplies for students at Carnegie Heritage and Arts Center; expand exercise and fitness opportunities as well as increased walking opportunities at William T. Murphy Community Center at Glenburn Home; a walking bus program; downtown partnership; a transportation voucher program; entrepreneurial feasibility study; and marketing the 2-1-1 services in Linton.

"We're not sure how that will be divided up," he said.

Wilkes is happy with the grant amount and said the city did not get funded for all 10 of its initiatives, but state officials have assured the city that they will assist in getting grants to fund some of the other requested items in the application.

Linton, Huntington, and Valparaiso were each also awarded \$18,000 planning grants to build upon existing initiatives in addressing aging-in-place issues.

A Community for a Lifetime is a place that promotes physical, social, mental and economic well-being for persons with all abilities, across the entire lifespan.

The communities were selected through a competitive process that solicited letters of intent from the communities which focused on aging or related issues such as disabilities, accessibility issues, transportation, intergenerational activities, recreation, housing and community involvement.

"They (state officials) told us now that we are designated as a Lifetime Community that it will open up a lot of doors for us (in terms of grants). There were only three communities in the state that also



were named. When we apply for something that puts us a step ahead than anybody else," Wilkes explained.

"We are very pleased ---- \$332,000 coming into the community is a big deal. It will be all spent here in the community. This will all fall in line with what we are trying to do ---- we are working on blighted properties and trying to fix up homes and things. This will help some of the elderly be able to maintain their homes and stay there."

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## Exhibits D and E

(Article from Retirement Living Magazine and article from Grantmakers Alliance)

*Serving Greater Northwest Indiana and Northern Indiana Counties*

# RETIREMENT LIVING

FALL 2012

## Communities for a Lifetime

*Enhancing cities by  
better serving seniors*

*Also:*

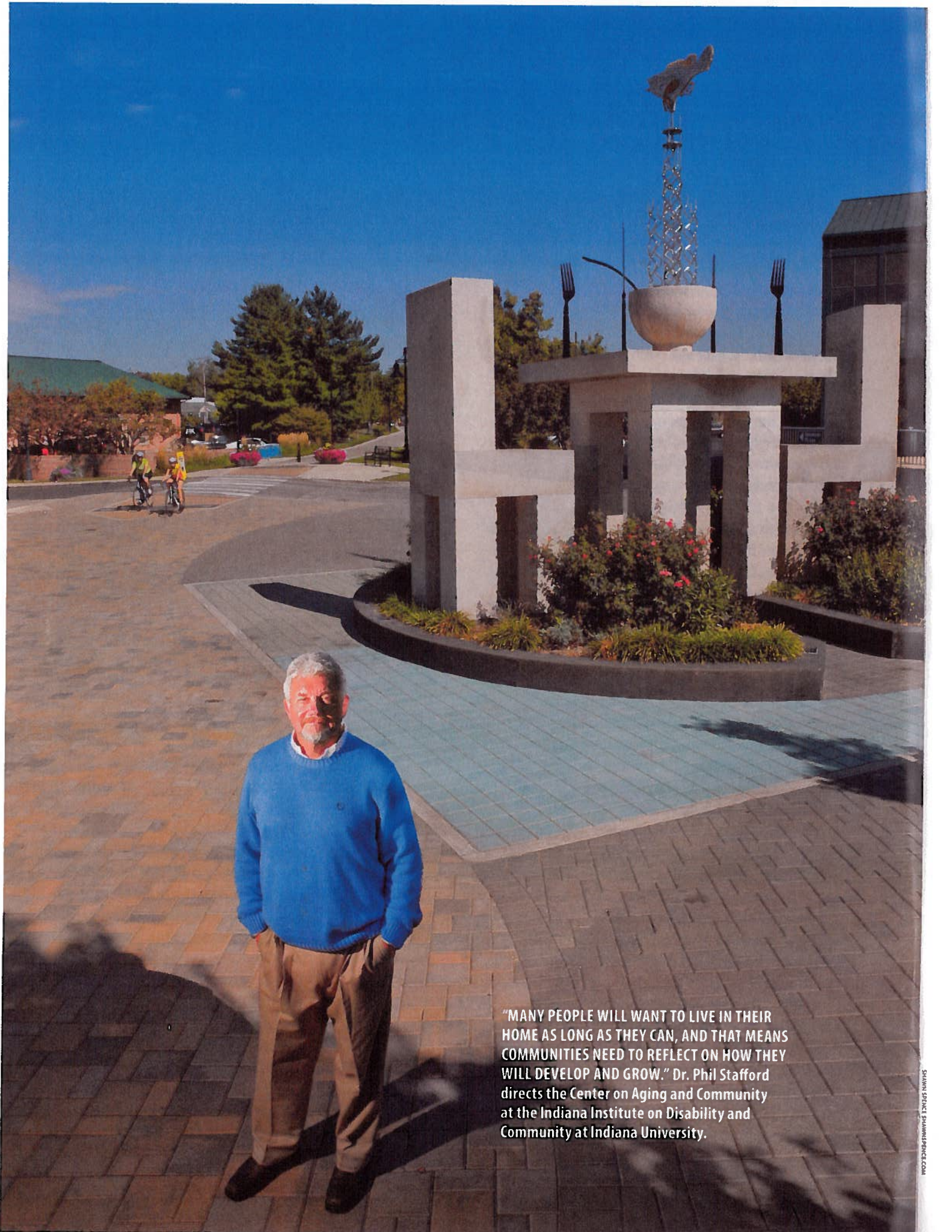
*Staying Fit for Life*

*Social Security's Future*

*Who Gets Your Company?*

*Places to Go, Things to Do*

**Dr. Phil Stafford, director**  
Center on Aging and Community,  
Indiana Institute on Disability and  
Community, Indiana University



**"MANY PEOPLE WILL WANT TO LIVE IN THEIR HOME AS LONG AS THEY CAN, AND THAT MEANS COMMUNITIES NEED TO REFLECT ON HOW THEY WILL DEVELOP AND GROW."** Dr. Phil Stafford directs the Center on Aging and Community at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University.

# Communities for a Lifetime

*"When we do what's good for the elderly, it's good for the entire community."*

Over the next 40 years, Indiana's population is expected to increase by 1 million people to nearly 7.5 million Hoosiers. That growth isn't unexpected, but one thing that has caught the attention of demographers is that Indiana's population is getting older.

According to the *Indiana Business Review*, a publication of the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, the first Baby Boomers hit age 65 in 2011. By 2030, all Boomers will be 65, meaning that in less than 20 years, 13 percent of Indiana's population will be retirement age.

Taking into account all Hoosiers who are 55 and older, some 700,000 retirees and people approaching retirement age will be living in the state. And many of them are not headed to Florida; they're staying right here. That trend is forcing communities to take a close look and figure out how to address the demands that will put on public services.

The state is already looking ahead at that through a program known as Communities for a Lifetime. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman's office recently awarded three grants of

\$16,000 each to communities around Indiana to encourage them to "welcome, value and support the meaningful participation of people of all abilities across the entire lifespan."

"Communities for a Lifetime is truly a collaborative and innovative effort for Indiana," says Skillman. "For the first time communities are looking at their long-term sustainability and determining what solutions will ensure their residents are invested and thriving in their communities of choice for years to come."

The three communities that received the grants are Valparaiso in Northwest Indiana, Huntington in Northeast Indiana, and Linton in Southern Indiana.

Helping those communities assess their needs, especially what will be needed to help retirees and senior citizens, is Dr. Phil Stafford, director of the Center on Aging and Community at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at IU in Bloomington. "This initiative puts Indiana at the leading edge of the growing age-friendly community movement," says Stafford.

During a visit to Pines Retirement Village in Valparaiso in late spring, he told community

leaders they should prepare for what he calls "a silver tsunami." He says that by the middle of the century fully 12 percent of the state's population will be 65 or older; by 2030, one in three Hoosiers will be 55 or older.

"This is a very real phenomenon," says Stafford. "Many of these people will want to live in their home as long as they can, and that means communities need to reflect on how they will develop and grow."

Since 80 percent of older adults own their own home, it's understandable they would want to live there, says Stafford. "Home is an active form of environment for them. From our surveys, 94 percent have told us home is where they want to stay. Aging isn't just about time and body, it's a place."

As Stafford works with the three communities, the goal in each is to create a livable community for all ages. "The communities we've created thus far don't work all that well, especially the suburbs, where we have some retrofitting to do."

Stafford says the suburbs don't have easy access to public transportation. Homes are usually some distance from retail and government centers and far from entertainment choices—all



*"We know we need to become more accessible. We need to create more partnerships. We're working with the YMCA, Valparaiso University and other organizations. They have lots of things that seniors like."*

**Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas**

things retirees say they want.

"The suburbs are low population density, auto-dependent areas that isolate elders who cannot drive," says Stafford. "They separate people from where they work and live and from where they shop and go to school."

One change that Stafford is discussing is how cities view their streets. "Streets should be for mobility, not just for cars," says Stafford. "They should be open for public transit, bikes, walkers, even golf carts."

All of those are pieces of a puzzle that's being put together to create the concept of an Elder-Friendly Community, says Stafford. "It comes down to one common goal—creating a good place to grow up and grow old."

Among the key principles being explored in Valparaiso, Huntington and Linton are neighborliness; creating an environment for growth, learning and autonomy; creating a positive image; diverse housing options; and creating a community for all ages. "Neighbors are not family, or even necessarily close friends," says Stafford. "Friendships may, however, emerge from the field of neighborly relations."

Stafford adds that most older people are prepared to deal with diminished capacity, but they want to be able to personally manage the process in an independent manner as long as possible.

"The older adult population of many towns and cities includes many people who have lived over 30 years in one location," says Stafford. "We have been struck time and again by the desire of older adults to remain in touch with people of all ages. While many common interests cement relations among the community of older adults, and places such as senior centers are valued as centers of such interest, there is a clear desire to remain involved with the total community."

Stafford says that as communities consider their options for dealing with an older population, it should be viewed as an opportunity, not a problem. "There are changes in store



*"It started with an assessment of what we have and that turned out to be a look at neighborhood issues. Little things like help with yard work, or painting, or help around the house were things that were important to seniors. Cross-generational activities benefit everyone."*

**Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters**

regarding our communities. Some are changing more quietly than others, but they are changing."

Stafford has been looking at Indiana's aging population for the last 12 years, talking with seniors, care providers, chambers of commerce and

community leaders around the state. "The Communities for a Lifetime grants are a part of the process. We were looking for communities that were ready to succeed. We looked at communities with housing, that were accessible and had good streets and sidewalks."

Stafford, who grew up in Hobart in Northwest Indiana, says his experience as a youngster there shaped his outlook on what livable communities need. "I remember that older people were a part of the neighborhood," says Stafford. "I guess I've always been a bit of a gadfly on this because I've always been interested in the community aspect of seniors."

Stafford says he hopes the work that evolves out of the Communities for a Lifetime will become a blueprint for communities across Indiana to make the necessary adjustments for an aging population.

"This could help drive economic development as well," says Stafford. "There are more startup businesses started by people between the ages of 45 to 60 than any other age group. They're looking at encore careers, so what can communities do to help make themselves more attractive to that group?"

Stafford says the national discourse right now is focused on the medical needs of older Americans, but there is a whole lot more to the discussion than medical care. "People want to stay put. We need to think in terms of living together and playing together. Seniors want to be a part of the community. Instead of senior centers, why not think community

centers where all ages can come together?

Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas is a big proponent of the livability concept. Costas, a lawyer whose background is in elder law, says there is a lot a community like Valparaiso can do, not only for

seniors but for all residents.

"Demographics are changing everywhere. The trend of retirees moving to Florida isn't that great anymore. They want to remain in the community," says Costas. "Our older population is much more active so we've

## VALPARAISO, INDIANA A CITY FOR ALL AGES

[valpo.us](http://valpo.us)

VALPARAISO, IN  
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partnered with Pines Village Retirement Communities to create ElderStyle Valparaiso. We want to find out what's important for them."

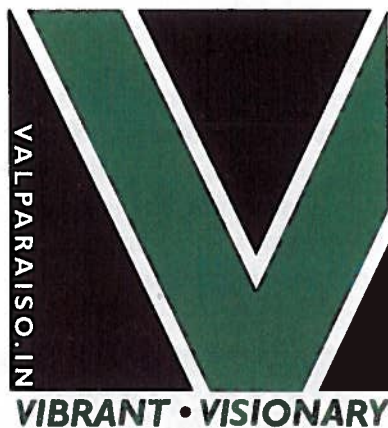
A city of 31,000, Valparaiso conducted a citywide audit to find out what assets it had in order to determine what was still needed. "We know we need to become more accessible," says Costas. "We need to create more partnerships. We're working with the YMCA, Valparaiso University and other organizations. They have lots of things that seniors like."

Costas says Valparaiso's downtown with its new Central Park Plaza has become a mecca for entertainment and dining, both of which are things seniors have told the city they like.

"We're a very progressive city. We encourage our citizens to enjoy the benefits of the city and to remain here and take advantage of the options we offer," says Costas.

John Siebert, director of Valparaiso's Parks and Recreation Department, is responsible for implementing ElderStyle. The program began in 2007 and a key part is the city's network of hiking and biking trails. The city currently has 15 miles of trails and Siebert says it's adding two miles a year.

"We want to be a community of choice for older adults," says Siebert. "The mayor had a vision for the entire lifespan, not just for young families. So far the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, both from residents and families. We have the pieces in place so aging in place can occur. We want to create a culture of wellness activities for



**VALPARAISO**  
VIBRANT • VISIONARY

*"We've developed a comprehensive plan and our primary issues are housing and services."*

Incoming Linton Mayor John Wilkes

everyone in the community."

Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters says his community of 17,000 is doing all it can to encourage older adults to stay when they retire.

"We want to be a community for a lifetime," says Fetters. "For us, it started with an assessment of what we have and that turned out to be a look at neighborhood issues. Little things like help with yard work, or painting, or help around the house were things that were important to seniors. They want to do that as long as they can, but when they need help for those things, like making the house look nice for the whole neighborhood, that's where we can come in."

By connecting seniors with the

community and student groups (like Valparaiso, Huntington is home to a university), seniors are able to stay in their home longer. "Cross-generational activities like this benefit everyone," says Fetters.

Huntington also is discussing the possibility of allowing golf carts to be used on city streets. "Different groups have spoken out on it. It presents some challenges to us because to get to some of the retail areas, they're going to have to cross major highways."

Another issue being discussed is the city's network of trails. "We're not where we want to be with that right now, but we're a lot further along than we were a few years ago," says Fetters.

City-wide, Fetters says it's important for Huntington to be fully ADA-complaint in terms of sidewalk and building access.

"I want to make Huntington the best version of what it can be," says Fetters. "What I see is a vibrant group of individuals and if by doing what we can do will help prolong their life by five years, then we'll do it. It will enhance the quality of life in all our neighborhoods and make Huntington a better place to live."

Long term, Fetters says that if what Huntington does can help serve as a blueprint for other communities in Indiana, then that's a plus all the way around. "We're trying to be very proactive and address change. We're certainly willing to share our experience with the understanding that we're not perfect."

When Linton's late Mayor Tom Jones died last year, he left a table full of things to do for



incoming Mayor John Wilkes. One of those was completing the town's assessment of what it needs to do to become one of Indiana's Communities for a Lifetime. Wilkes has fully embraced the concept. "We've developed a comprehensive plan and our primary issues are housing and services."

Linton, with just 5,400 people, is the smallest of the three Indiana communities receiving a Communities for a Lifetime grant. Wilkes says he's been fortunate to be able to lean on someone like Noble Stallons for support in the effort.

Stallons, the former head of the Utilities District of Western Indiana/REMC, is an advocate for the elderly. He is chairman of the Governor's Commission on Aging and for the past 15 years has been president of the Generations Area Agency on Aging in Greene County.

"We're a community that's focused on the elderly," says Stallons. "It's always been a caring community." Stallons says the first thing Linton did was list its assets and then it came up with a list of what else the community needed.

"Transportation was right at the top of the list," says Wilkes. That led to the city council in July passing an ordinance that allowed the use of golf carts on city streets. The carts have to be inspected and licensed (for a fee) by the city. The carts have to be insured and they can't travel on the highway that goes through town, but they can cross it.

"It's been very successful," says Wilkes. "It's a cost effective way for seniors to get around town.

It's also been a way for us to get the elderly involved in the community."

Stallons says he's proud that the effort is working and his focus has now moved on to providing adequate housing for seniors. "We need to keep

the elderly connected with the community and we need to make sure they're healthy. I think we're demonstrating that when we do what's good for the elderly, it's good for the entire community." ■

—RICK A. RICHARDS

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# Communities for a Lifetime



One in four Americans is aged 55+

## 185

Number of Hoosier communities in which at least 25% of the population is aged 55+

## 8

Number of Hoosier communities designated as Communities for a Lifetime

## 66

Estimated number of Hoosier communities undertaking CfaL projects

Sources: 2010 Census, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

We know our older population is growing in number. We know the vast majority of that population wishes to age in place. **But do Indiana communities currently offer the quality of place required to serve individuals of all ages and abilities? By and large, the answer today is no.**

To ensure that all Hoosiers live in a place that supports their physical, social, mental and economic well-being, we can begin shaping **Communities for a Lifetime (CfaL)**. In these locales, both the built environment and the social fabric are constructed to support those growing up and growing old.

This issue brief highlights the four domains of CfaLs and demonstrates how they are put into action. It introduces many of the individuals and institutions involved in this work, as well as some communities that are already planning for the future. Lastly, it suggests how you can get involved and learn more.

If you want to help create an Indiana in which all citizens are connected to the people, places, services and information that make life more livable, read on. Building a community for a lifetime may be just what you have in mind.

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Indiana Grantmakers  
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Indiana's University Center for Excellence  
in Developmental Disabilities

Research, Education, and Service

[iidc.indiana.edu](http://iidc.indiana.edu)

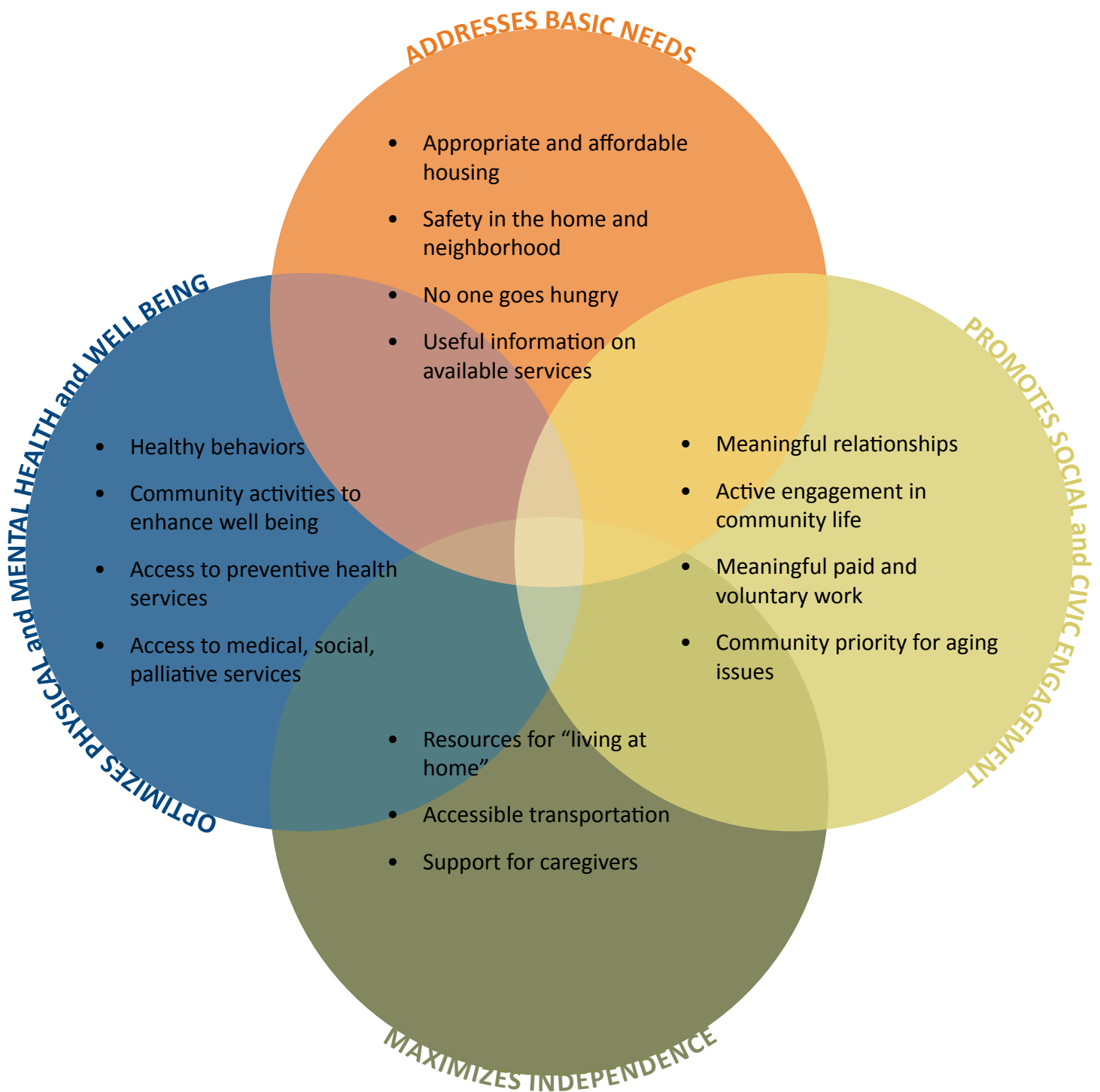


INDIANA UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

[policyinstitute.iu.edu](http://policyinstitute.iu.edu)

# Communities for a Lifetime Domains

## THE FOUR DOMAINS OF COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME



Adapted from the Center for Home Care Policy and Research, Visiting Nurse Service of New York

# Incorporating the Domains into Your Community

## THE FOUR DOMAINS IN ACTION

Source: Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities



### Accessibility Components

A Accessible Mass Transit

### Livability Components

- 1 Community Policing & Neighborhood Watch
- 2 Recreation Areas

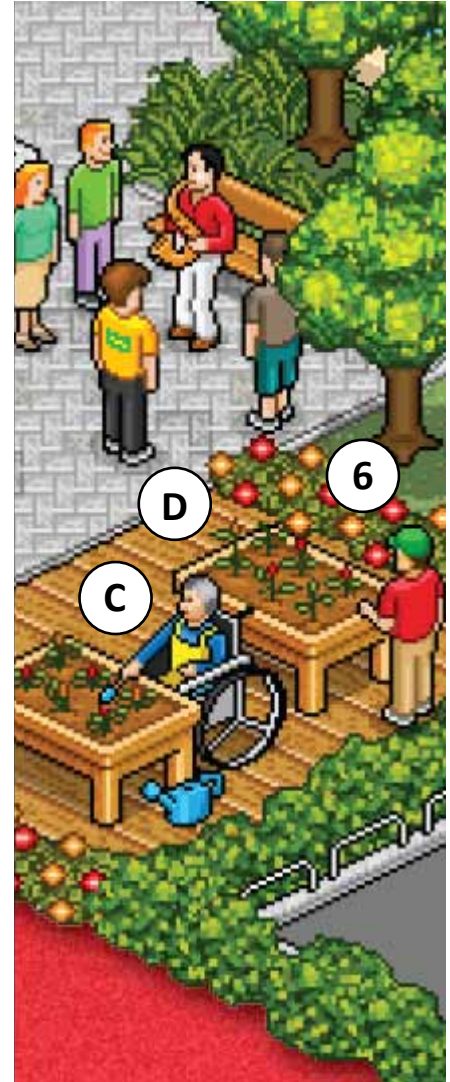


### Accessibility Components

B Curb Cuts

### Livability Components

- 3 Public Art & Music
- 4 Sidewalks
- 5 Bike Lanes/Complete Streets



### Accessibility Components

C Raised Garden Beds  
D Zero-Step Entrance

### Livability Components

6 Community Gardens

### Additional Accessibility Components

Handrails, automatic doors, audible crosswalk signals, accessible vehicle parking, ramps, accessible playground equipment

### Additional Livability Components

Libraries, grocery/retail stores, schools, restaurants, affordable/appropriate housing, public recycling, community centers, entertainment venues

# Communities for a Lifetime Players & Best Practices

Many stakeholder groups can and should be involved when planning your community for a lifetime. Think broadly when seeking out partners, and remember that the lines between the below groups are often blurred.

## Neighborhoods

### Residents

Individuals of all ages and abilities  
Associations

### Institutions

Churches  
Neighborhood Nonprofits  
Businesses

## Professionals

### For-Profits

Architects  
Developers

### Nonprofits

Community Development Corporations  
Economic Development Organizations  
Agencies  
Universities

## Government

### Elected Officials

Town Councils  
Mayors  
Governors

### Civil Servants

Planners

## BECOMING A CFAL

### Linton

Linton, Indiana mobilized a senior advisory group and key public officials that identified home safety and mobility as a priority. The community secured funding for a neighborhood-based home modification program that benefited elders and local contractors, while empowering older citizens as decision-makers. Their work garnered CfaL designation and funding from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. For more information, contact **Noble Stallons** at [mrstalwood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrstalwood@sbcglobal.net).

### St. Joseph County

The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County participated in the [AdvantAge Initiative](#) to guide its community toward elder-friendliness. As a result, it has partnered with its Area Agency on Aging, local government and other funders to provide more than \$2 million in ongoing in-home/respite care, home modifications and related caregiver education. For more information, contact **Chris Nanni** at [chris@cfsjc.org](mailto:chris@cfsjc.org).

### Rising Sun

To help its community retain its elderly population and become an active retirement destination, the Rising Sun Regional Foundation (RSRF) awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Rising Sun Retirement Task Force. The Task Force completed site visits to successful programs, spoke with prospective developers, conducted a market analysis, and drafted a detailed report for city administrators as part of the initiative. Then, working with neighboring cities and nationally-recognized CfaL experts, these groups hosted a roundtable discussion on the potential of decentralized, senior-friendly housing in historic downtowns. The foundation's role as a consistent leader, information provider and community convener is maintaining CfaL momentum in the regions it serves. For more information, contact **Ed Sullivan** at [esullivan43@comcast.net](mailto:esullivan43@comcast.net).

# Getting Involved & Learning More

## HOW TO HELP

- Take stock of community assets and liabilities in order to craft improvement strategies
- Support a collaborative planning process among funders, government and business
- Facilitate communication between stakeholders
- Serve as a neutral convener and connector
- Advocate for communities for a lifetime

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click on any of the resources below for more.

### Articles / Reports / Research

- Aging Well in Communities
- A Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages

### Websites

- Communities for All Ages
- Creating Aging-Friendly Communities
- The NORC Blueprint: Guide to Community Action

### Initiatives / Organizations / Projects

- The AdvantAge Initiative
- Community Partnership for Older Adults
- Indiana Communities for a Lifetime
- Lifelong Communities
- The Project for Public Spaces
- Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities

### *Still Have Questions?*

Ask Phil Stafford at IU's  
Indiana Institute on Disability and Community  
at [staffor@indiana.edu](mailto:staffor@indiana.edu).

## Analyzing Proposals

How does this proposal contribute toward building a community for a lifetime? Which domains does it address?

What proof exists that this initiative is an actionable priority? What is the theory of change?

Who was involved in determining the need for this intervention? The solution?

Does this proposal suit existing/emerging community and transportation plans?

**Community  
AGEnda**

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