



Communities

Through the collaborative efforts of people,
businesses, nonprofits, government, and the
media, we can achieve greater impact toward
community thriving.

UPLIFT Florida Network Launches Village Development

Posted on October 31, 2021 by [Emile Gauvreau, UPLIFT Florida Network](#)

UPLIFT Florida Network, Inc. is beginning to form new community-based villages in the downtown Sarasota area, Lee County, Bradenton, and Longboat Key. The development and support of villages is the crux of UPLIFT's mission—to improve the well-being of our community members via a network supporting individuals thriving independently in community.

A village is a geographic area that facilitates the neighbors helping neighbors approach. Villages have existed in the United States for over 20 years. They are characterized by strong volunteer structures that power the villages' operations and the services they provide to their members.

The success of a village relies on consistent funding to support operations. This has hampered the development and expansion and has caused villages to rely significantly on membership fees which further limits the breadth of the population a village can serve. The [Village to Village Network](#) was engaged in a national conversation, Reimagining Villages, to explore new models for the funding and operation of villages with aspirations of inclusivity and the desire to thrive independently. In response, [UPLIFT Florida Network](#) was formed to facilitate a new village system using a hub and spoke model.

UPLIFT has been supported in its development by The Patterson Foundation and Sarasota County's Aging Systems Policy Coordinator, Sue Berger, and mentored by several individuals from the Village to Village Network—the national organization that supports more than 300 existing villages in the United States. This support has given UPLIFT the confidence and guidance to create an innovative, second-generation model for the development of villages.

The charge to be inclusive and financially self-sustaining has been taken up by UPLIFT, which sees the importance of developing strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships with like-minded nonprofit organizations, governmental offices, foundations, and individual donors.

"We see our efforts strengthening and expanding the network of services already supporting individuals in our communities. We believe that UPLIFT Florida Network's role will be positive and complementary, fortifying our capacity to thrive as we age," says Emile Gauvreau, UPLIFT Chair.