

river bluffs **village**

a partnership of community residents and DARTS

What's this New Village?

VAN Forum 6/9/09



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Membership area

- Lilydale, Mendota, northern Mendota Heights, and Sunfish Lake

Funding

- Daniels Fund grant

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Program components

- Transportation
- Preferred providers
- Handyperson
- Social connections

Community partners

- Thompson Park Community Center
- Sholom
- Jewish Community Center
- SNAP Fitness
- New possibilities

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DARTS-RBV relationship

- RBV complements DARTS strengths and brings new possibilities to DARTS' bond with the community
- RBV and another new DARTS initiative, *Living Longer and Stronger in Dakota County*, can help keep DARTS relevant as people age

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Ongoing learning – location, health status, interests

- Members reside in a variety of housing types
- Needs vary depending on housing, health, independence
- Community opportunities limited in single family homes versus condo setting
- Best ways to ascertain interests of members

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Ongoing learning – building a suburban membership community

- Find common threads among members
- Member community opportunities
- New friendships and social outlets within the RBV community

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Ongoing learning – age, lifestyle, and economic factors

- Cautious response to current economy
- Existing services in place
- Full social calendars
- Average age, 81 – healthier and more active

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Future considerations

- Evaluate program regularly; stay flexible
- Enhance website for members
- Physical space for members
- Access the market needs of boomers
- Other village successes