Will Phillips  
AARP Minnesota State Director  
1919 University Ave. W, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota  55104

Dear Mr. Phillips,

On behalf of the City of Oakdale, the city council and I are excited to begin our work toward the designation as an Age Friendly City. We look forward to engaging our community in assessing, learning, evaluating, and promoting the actions that will make Oakdale more age friendly over the next five years and beyond.

Oakdale has a wonderful base on which to build our efforts: the Oakdale Wellness 50+ team. Over the past seven years this team of individuals has created programs to encourage health and wellness among our population, 40% of whom are over the age of 50. The team was recently recognized by the Washington County Public Health Department with an achievement award for devoting their time and talents to improve the health and well-being of Washington County residents. Now the team is ready to work on assessing the needs of the community and creating an action plan to benefit more seniors than we are currently reaching.

The City of Oakdale, population 27,933, is a growing suburban community located northeast of St. Paul in Washington County. The demographics of the city and county are trending towards more people in the 50+ age group and a new development will add about 2000 citizens. It is a city with many choices for senior residents. These include a variety of activities offered by Oakdale Wellness 50+ and the Oakdale Discovery Center, such as exercise challenges, biking, kayaking, healthy eating, mental health discussions, a book club, CPR classes, blood drives, and many more. Senior living facilities include six multiple resident buildings and many single-level dwellings.

Oakdale has begun the process of developing an Age Friendly Community by creating a growing core team that includes local health care providers, a city council member, the Lions club member, a representative of Parks and Recreation, the executive director of the Vital Aging Network, and several members of the Oakdale Wellness 50+ team. This core team will build on the Oakdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the recent National Community Survey to assess the needs of the community and work with the city's future priorities. It is the city's intention to continue to support this work and to foster and implement plans and policies which serve the varied needs of our older residents.

Thank you for considering us in a growing network of Age-Friendly Communities in Minnesota. We can't wait to begin!

Sincerely,

Paul Reinke  
Mayor