

Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the
World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org or call 202-434-2430
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: January 2017

STATE: Oregon

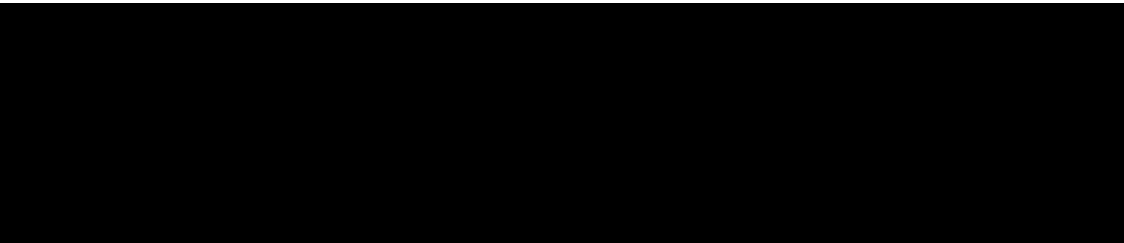
POPULATION SIZE: 23,465 (2015 est., Portland State University)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 25% AGE 55+ Per 2010 Census

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Bob Andrews

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work – it is not the responsible SSRP staff member



Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Kathy Watson is passionate about helping others stay connected and independent in their own homes for as long as possible by leveraging community assets including the community of faith.

Kathy Watson, manager of Providence Newberg Medical Center's Community Connections & Faith in Action programs, is passionate about bringing people from all walks of life together to create empowering connections for less powerful people. Watson is utilizing a Bachelors in Sociology/Social Work and a MA in Ministry Leadership to lead a community minded team of program coordinators and volunteers, numbering approximately one thousand, who desire to be the change in the lives of older adults, children with special needs and the families that care for them. With over 30 years of experience in the field of long term care, she has held positions such as skilled nursing facility social worker, skilled nursing facility licensed administrator, long term care consultant and small business owner and program manager along the way, always focusing on bringing people together to improve the quality of life for those who have been unable to make their own voices heard.

Watson is an active member and former Clerk of Elders (chairperson) at Newberg Friends Church. She has been engaged in volunteer service through Kiwanis International, 4-H, Twin Rocks Friends Camp, and Faith in Action, to name a few. She is currently serving Friendsview Retirement Community as Vice-Chair of

the Board of Trustees and Clerk of the Board and Development Committee. She is a member of the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches Board of Leadership Development and Education. She currently serves as an Ambassador for the National Volunteer Caregiver Network and is member of the Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Currently, our city has Americans with Disabilities Act policies that support older adults as well in areas such as building interiors and exteriors and remodels. While our transit transportation system is seriously lacking, we do have a Dial-a-Ride bus, Faith in Action volunteer transportation services, paid medical transportation and city policies that require inclusion. We have housing options such as assisted living and senior living facilities, a city affordable housing plan, and a Newberg area Habitat for Humanity. For social engagement we have an active senior center managed by the Chehalem Park and Recreation District, a thriving public library, an activities group called Widow's Might, Friendsview Retirement Community, George Fox University and Strong for Life exercise classes. Regarding respect and inclusion, we have a SMART reading program in elementary schools, several ethnic churches, and, again, George Fox University. Our community hosts a Meals on Wheels program, Friends in Service to Humanity (FISH, a local food bank), Love in the Name of Christ, income adjusted counseling services and volunteer caregiver services through Faith in Action that include transportation, hard work, friendly visiting, respite care, light housekeeping and grocery shopping with and for seniors.

We plan to complete a community-wide assessment and involve key community leaders, stakeholders and relevant experts in the development and implementation of a work plan based on the livability findings.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming more age-friendly?

Older adults are already involved in the process as members of the steering committee. They were also involved in the June key stakeholder meeting. Older adults will be queried throughout the needs assessment. Older adults will also be integrally involved in the analysis, planning and implementation of any resulting work plans developed to address the community's livability domains based on data gathered during the assessment process. Our intention is that all of our community's visioning, planning and building going forward will include an age and disability friendly lens that promotes autonomy, mastery and purpose for all ages subject to the wise guidance of older adults.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

Key leaders were convened in June 2016. Those demonstrating strong support for Newberg joining this initiative thus far include individuals from faith communities, George Fox University, the City of Newberg (staff and City Council), NorthWest Senior & Disability Services, Friendsview Retirement Community (staff

and residents), Providence Newberg Medical Center, the Chehalem Senior Center, Yamhill Community Action Partnership, the Newberg Public Library, Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity, FISH, Providence Home Health, Chehalem Cultural Center and Newberg Public Schools. Additional support is still being sought from Chehalem Park & Recreation District, Yamhill County Transit Agency, the Newberg Downtown Coalition, the Chehalem Valley Chamber and several other local businesses.

Everyone who attended the June 2016 introductory meeting voiced strong support for collaboration with their various organizations and areas of expertise. They heartily approved of pursuing membership in the Network in order to work more closely together on this agenda. Additionally, stakeholders pledged participation in workgroups yet to be formed around the eight livability domains, which will be based on the needs assessment coupled with their area of interest and expertise. Once the assessment is completed and analyzed, a work plan prioritization will serve as a call to action, mobilizing key organizations and individuals who can help advance the plan.

We intend to align workgroups with existing committees and task forces whenever possible. For example, if housing is identified as a critical issue, we will work with the ad hoc Newberg Housing Task Force and the City's Affordable Housing Committee. If Social Participation is identified as an issue, we will engage the Chehalem Cultural Center Board, the Chehalem Senior Center Advisory Council, George Fox University and Newberg Public Schools, to name a few. This will help leverage the good work already being done to address the community's livability while lending support and broadening that work on behalf of all area residents, particularly older adults and people with disabilities.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

We plan to contribute our "big wins" as well as "lessons learned" to the Network as we proceed through this process. One of our members who is currently working on her Doctorate in Sustainable Communities will be aligning some of the associated tasks with this initiative to her coursework and will be sharing her research, not only with us but with the wider Network as appropriate.

Additionally, we will share knowledge gained with the National Volunteer Caregiver Network, encouraging other organizations that share our passion to follow in our footsteps.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The time was right. Our community's 2020 Vision plan is coming to completion and work on a 2030 Vision has begun with community outreach and survey work. A long-planned for highway bypass is now under construction and completion is in sight. The Newberg Downtown corridor is being re-envisioned because of the bypass and recent completion of a downtown improvement plan. We have a recently updated Transportation System Plan. Newberg was a quarter-finalist in a recent "Americas Best

Communities” contest, demonstrating a readiness for new economic development. Friendsview Retirement Community recently broke ground on 38 new units with plans for more to follow. Finally, the City is starting to update the Riverfront plan.

This is the perfect time to encourage the thoughtful planning of a livable, sustainable city for all ages.

6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo