



October 18, 2017

Nicole Ware
AARP Associate State Director
17 South High Street Suite 800
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Ware:

On behalf of the City of Oxford, Ohio, we are excited about the opportunity to join with the World Health Organization and AARP to become an Age-Friendly Community. Oxford is committed to promoting actions and policies to make our community more age-friendly to its older adults and aging population.

Oxford, Ohio is a small town of 21,371 residents in rural Northwest Butler County. The community is home to Miami University and its 19,775 students. As of the 2010 Census, 7.6 percent of Oxford's population is over the age of 60. Our challenges arise from our remote location relative to county and regional services for older adults, and a local housing, socio-economic, retail and service economy driven by a college age demographic.

For the past four years Oxford VillAGE Network, a grassroots network of older adults, and Oxford Seniors, Inc., along with support from the City and Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center have worked to study the needs of the area's older adults and address the challenges of meeting those needs. Our primary concerns are in the areas of housing, transportation, and home care-services. Our goals as a community are to ensure our aging neighbors have the opportunity to be healthy, independent and integrated into community life and remain in their homes and in this community as they age.

As a participant in the network of Age-Friendly Communities, it is the intent of the City to:

- Secure a council resolution to work toward becoming more Age-Friendly
- Create an Age-Friendly Oxford Task Force and include older adults in the Task Force
- Assist Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center with creating the community needs assessment
- Establish a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly

We are looking forward to working with AARP Ohio staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure in place so we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kate Rousmaniere, Mayor

Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager