



'Village at Home' may help elderly

Homeland Column

By Kate Creamer
kcreamer@ywgcrealty.com
443-834-5386

Posted 11/25/08

Homeland

A recent meeting at the Village of Cross Keys introduced the "Village at Home" concept to north Baltimore. Started in Boston's Beacon Hill as a system for residents to age comfortably in their homes, the concept is spreading nationwide.

Relying on neighbors helping neighbors, it utilizes a network of volunteers to ease the everyday burdens of maintaining one's home and lifestyle as one ages.

Roland Park resident Susan Newhouse, a geriatric social worker, is spearheading the effort in the north Baltimore communities, including Homeland.

She is in the early stage of an 18-month process, hosting "community conversations" to assess interest and needs of area residents.

When the program is fully operational, volunteers will assist seniors with services like transportation, minor home repairs, activities, and referrals to trusted contractors.

In return, they too become part of the village network and will be "repaid" by getting the same help with such services as they age.

Anyone interested in more information or in volunteering should contact Susan at 410-235-3171.

Northern District police and the Greater Homewood Community Corporation bring a little holiday cheer each year to 100 needy families.

Again this year, they are requesting donations of nonperishable food, new toys, or cash to purchase fresh food.

If you can help, call 410-367-8491 to obtain information on drop-off sites or to arrange donation pickups.

user comments (0)