

## ***Selected Mission/Value statements from US Senior Cohousing Communities***

***Compiled for Common Ground Community, April 2018***

*Our Mission is: "To be a participatory community of mutual support in which all spiritual paths are respected and encouraged."* Values: Spirituality, Mutual Support, Service, Simple Lifestyle & Respect for the Earth, Arts & Recreation, Health, Care during illness & dying, Mutual Assistance, Kindness [each defined at the website]. **Elderspirit**, est. 2006

**"Our Silver Sage Village** vision is to be a strong community, one that nourishes the body and soul, and celebrates and harvests our diversities and life experience. We embrace living sustainably on the earth, creating a beautiful place to live, continuing to grow, aging in community, and responsibly honoring our commitment to one another. We are committed to establishing a workable balance between having our own private lives, doing our share for Silver Sage Village, and reaching out to the wider community." Boulder, CO, est. 2007

"To provide a comfortable and affordable home in the country for elders, where we can make independent life choices, pursue activities of interest, follow our spiritual paths, enjoy the benefits of a rural lifestyle (animals, gardens, food production), form close and caring relationships, contribute to others and enjoy life." **Elderberry**, Person County, NC, est. 2011

**"OAKCREEK** is founded on the principles of community, participatory decision making and problem solving by its members, sustainability, and affordability. Each member contributes his/her talents to enable personal and communal growth, as well as care of the environment. We value and nurture physical, mental and spiritual health in each other and the larger community in which we are active citizens. We enjoy each other's company, yet respect the privacy of each individual. We intend to care for each other as we age, offering help and comfort as needed." Stillwater, OK, est. 2012

"We at **Wolf Creek Lodge** are a group of independent, active adults who have come together to create a supportive community in which we can age safely and live fully with dignity and humor.

Inspired by the splendid, serene and natural setting in which we live, we strive to be responsible stewards dedicated to sustaining our physical environment.

While acknowledging that each of us holds dear our personal views and beliefs, it is our individual commitment to the core values and goals we share that unite and guide us. In a community fostered by patience, open-mindedness, respect and trust, we enjoy a cooperative, harmonious way of living, full of laughter and joyful conviviality. Together,

we learn and grow, sharing a strong sense of belonging and a heartfelt experience of coming home." Vision Statement, Grass Valley, CA, est. 2012

The need to accommodate future physical challenges is obvious. But so is the need to develop a sustainable community of friends and neighbors. Studies show that highly social settings serve to counter social isolation, which becomes common as we get older and has many negative effects on both physical and mental health.

So even though we don't *feel* "old" by any means, we are starting now to ensure our desired future. We expect that there will be a sense of shared values among all community members. These include:

**Respect:** honoring one another's views, values and choices; respecting everyone's property.

**Cooperation:** a willingness to share the load, share work, and share our joys and sorrows.

**Nurture:** caring to help others through both happy and difficult times.

**Optimism:** we are positive thinkers and optimists, and we know how to have fun.

***PDX Commons, Portland, OR, est. 2017***

***"Who We Are*** In dedicating ourselves to lifelong personal growth, friendship, respect for the environment, and service to others, we aspire to embody the following values:

**WISDOM** We respect the diversity of paths to personal growth. Deepening our connections to the natural world and others in the place that we live is a significant part of conscious aging.

**COMMUNITY** We live in a respectful, egalitarian community which uses consensus to guide our decision making. We are creating a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment that nurtures a sense of community and individual contentment.

**FRIENDSHIP** We value one another and the expression of mutual caring. We cherish and celebrate our diverse origins, joys, talents, beliefs, and life experiences.

**ENVIRONMENT** We affirm a sustainable future by conserving resources and living ever more lightly on the Earth.

**SERVICE** We offer service to the larger community both as individuals and as representatives of Sand River." **Sand River**, Santa Fe, NM, est. 2009