

# inTENTions

Summer 2017



## OUR VISION:

A community of elders and neighbors supporting one another

## OUR MISSION:

To connect elders to resources needed to maintain comfortable, dignified, vibrant lives in their homes and community.

**Welcome to the first issue of inTENTions, our official newsletter. We intend for it to evolve and look forward to incorporating your ideas and input.**

**You are receiving this mailing because you responded to our volunteer questionnaire, have asked to be put on our mailing list, or have otherwise shown interest in our project.**

## Current Status

Although we are associated with the Village-to-Village Network, our “Village”—Taos Elders and Neighbors Together (TENT) —is an independent, locally-based, nonprofit organization being formed to specifically help elders in Taos maintain independent living at home.

## Developments in place and in process:

The steering committee has evolved into a six-member Board of Directors:  
President: Jim Schultz,  
Treasurer: Jim Ludden,  
Secretary: Bette Myerson,  
Members at Large:  
Caryle Zorumski  
Marianne Furedi  
Barbara Crews

So far 65 “Neighbors” have responded to our volunteer questionnaire and have generously offered many types of help.

On July 6 Taos Elders and Neighbors Together was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in New Mexico.

We have been granted federal nonprofit status as a 501(c)(3). *Donations are not only welcome—they are tax-deductible!!!*

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We have designed and developed a LOGO with the help of Ron Furedi and Lydia Davis.

Our bylaws are being finalized.

## A bit of history: How we started on this venture

Most of us make Taos our home because we love Taos more than any other place we've lived and intend to live here until...? We belong to a generation that lives our lives on our own terms—traveling when we want to, seeing our families and those near and dear to us when and if we are so moved to.

However, we may have noticed that some folks around us have been finding it harder and harder—and then too hard—to manage their lives the way they had imagined and hoped they would. We see them moving to be nearer family who can be of support and meet the needs they can no longer meet independently. We early baby-boomers are coming face to face with this challenge to the way we see ourselves and our way of life. There are those of us who don't want to be a burden to others, nor do we want to give up the homes and lives we've built here. We want to stay where we are, where our friendships and communities make our lives rich and fulfilling. How can we do this?

A positive and concrete solution to the challenges of aging has been emerging over the last few years across the country: There are over 200 sites across the USA where communities have come together and collaboratively created ways of supporting their older members. They are making it possible for people to stay in their own homes in safety and comfort, remaining socially connected. This phenomenon, collectively, is the "Village to Village Network" (see [vtvnetwork.org](http://vtvnetwork.org)): people coming together to help each other with chores, trips, and whatever other needs are identified, either through volunteer efforts or by providing information about vetted, reliable services that are available. In some cases they provide services.

## Recent and Upcoming Events

**July 12**—Public Meeting at Valverde Commons with Tai Chi presentation and demonstration by Richard Leirer of Qigong Academy.

### ***Save These Dates and Please Attend!***

**August 19**, noon to 6 PM—TENT will have an information booth at Kit Carson Park's Carnival for Life, a special project of the Taos Community Foundation sponsored by numerous organizations, to benefit Help Outreach Taos (HOT). Live music and DJs, games, activities and more. ***Come visit us there!***

**September 25**, 3 PM, at 405 Valverde Commons Drive, Taos—Public Meeting with live-streaming keynote address by Dr. Atul Gawande, MD, MPH, author of the seminal book *Being Mortal*, in celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beacon Hill Village and the "Village" movement it inspired.

***Please be sure to attend!***



Elders, neighbors, and friends enjoying a happy moment.