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DC Villages Names Dr. Polk as Inaugural Executive Director

Aging-in-place expert Dr. Katrina Polk will focus on building and expanding city-wide collaborative efforts among the 13 DC Villages to benefit all older adults in the District

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The DC Villages Collaborative has selected Dr. Katrina Polk to serve as its inaugural executive director. This appointment will help launch an innovative structure that leverages the strengths of 13 neighborhood-based, non-profit organizations dedicated to supporting older adults across DC.

Dr. Katt, as she is known, has spent the past two decades working on issues at the heart of aging in the community. She earned her doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University and holds multiple certificates and credentials in project management, aging and wellness, and gerontology. In her new role, Dr. Katt will lead collaborative efforts among the 13 DC Villages, working closely with leaders of existing Villages and exploring expansion of the Village concept into underserved areas of the city.



“Dr. Katt brings an amazing level of professional, academic, and lived experience to the District’s Village movement. She understands the critical role Villages play in the network of services for older adults in Washington, D.C. We are looking forward to her leading our collaborative efforts to strengthen and expand Village services,” said Morgan Gopnik, chair of the DC Villages Collaborative Council.

Professionally, Dr. Katt has led public and private-sector organizations focused on serving older adults, including developing programs for aging in community at the Community Preservation and Development Corp.; building strategic alliances for affordable housing at Enterprise Community Partners; and, most recently, overseeing community and aging services for the city of District Heights in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Dr. Katt also founded Dynamic Solutions for the Aging, a social enterprise firm focused on solutions for the health and housing industries, with a focus on aging and community development. She was appointed co-chair of the Housing Domain for Age-Friendly DC and sits on the AARP DC Executive Council.

“Since early 2000, I have studied, co-designed, and co-led community-driven service networks, from Philadelphia to Virginia’s Tidewater region. The Village model is highly flexible and well-suited to the delivery of services and connections that people benefit from as they (continues)

age in their community,” said Polk. “I am excited by the work the District’s Villages have achieved over the years, and I look forward to supporting their collaborative work transforming aging in the city.”

The 13 existing DC Villages operate in neighborhoods across the city. In fiscal year 2023, 9,704 DC residents aged 60 and over were served by a Village organization. More than 1,300 locally trained and vetted volunteers spent a total of 34,328 hours—valued at \$1.7 million—providing vital services like transportation to medical appointments, grocery delivery, technology support, and educational programming. Membership in a Village has been shown to help combat social isolation and ensure that older residents remain engaged and valued members of their community. By leveraging the caring support of neighbors, DC Villages play a vital role in the network of services provided to older District residents.

To learn more about the DC Villages, the services they provide, and how to join or volunteer, contact your local Village, listed below, or visit www.DCVillages.org.

[Capitol Hill Village](#)

[Cleveland & Woodley Park Village](#)

[Dupont Circle Village](#)

[East Rock Creek Village](#)

[Foggy Bottom West End Village](#)

[Georgetown Village](#)

[Glover Park Village](#)

[Greater Brookland Intergenerational Village](#)

[Kingdom Care Senior Village](#)

[Mount Pleasant Village](#)

[Northwest Neighbors Village](#)

[Palisades Village](#)

[Waterfront Village](#)

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