



ABSTRACT

Age friendly communities are not a new idea, however it is one that is slowly catching on. With a steadily growing older population it is becoming obvious that there is a large need to make accommodations in our communities for them. Accommodations for the aging populations are often few and far between, and occasionally they can create even more challenges or be extremely costly, therefore making those services unavailable to many people. It is important that communities evaluate themselves to see what they need to do for the older population to become age-friendly. In this comparative analysis, I will discuss the relative age-friendliness of the town of Geneva, New York. The hope of this study will be to provide a base idea of what this town is lacking in order to become a more age friendly community.

CRITERIA

In order to be an age friendly community the community must have the following criteria:

- Housing- Must be accessible and affordable
- Outdoor Spaces- Must be pleasant and have age-friendly pathways
- Transportation- Must be affordable and reliable
- Social Environment- Must have intergenerational and engaging services
- Community Support- Must encourage engagement in community life
- Health and Wellness Services- Must have accessible and affordable care

HOUSING

When looking for apartments, assisted living and nursing homes I found Seneca Housing which is an independent living housing complex designed for seniors. Rent for Seneca Housing was based on income so it is an estimated 30% of your income, there is a wait list however for this building that has 51 single bedroom apartments. Lyceum Heights was another independent living center for seniors that are 62 and older, there are 64 units in total with a mix of one and two bedroom apartments. St. Francis is another independent senior housing facility that has 16 one bedroom units and bases rent off 30% of income. There are no nursing homes or assisted living facilities directly in my town, there are some however in the neighboring towns.

OUTDOOR SPACES

When looking at outdoor spaces, I looked for parks, museums, malls or a place similar to a senior center. In my town I found Seneca Lake State Park, the Smith Opera House, Rose Hill Mansion Museum, the Ontario Pathways, the local Farmer’s Market and the Geneva History Museum.

TRANSPORTATION

When looking at the transportation in my town I found three local taxi services: The Other Taxi, All The Way Taxi and D&G Transportation There are also a couple medical transportation services that serve my town: Cj Mak Medical Transportation, Able Medical Transportation Inc. and Larson Medical Transport. We also have a C.A.T.S. bus which is a public transportation bus that is available to bring people to various places along its route.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

In my community there is a senior lounge at the local community center, there they offer senior meeting, senior bingo and cribbage nights. In the lounge there is a flat screen tv, couches and tables and chairs as well as they have a small garden outside. In addition to the senior lounge they also have a senior crafts room at the community center where they have many different craft activities. The LGBTQ Center also has programs for adults 55+ and intergenerational programs for the seniors in the community. For town hall meetings, everyone is welcome (I think but not sure, I couldn’t find conformation of either a yes or a no), as for information on COVID-19, it is being shared via the media like TV news, radio, and newspapers.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In my town there is a community college, Finger Lakes Community College, that allows seniors to audit classes without having to pay tuition. There is also a lot of volunteer opportunities through AARP for people over the age of 60 but there was no skill building opportunities. This was pretty much all the things I could find for skill building in my community directly.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

In my community, rite aid will deliver prescriptions during the week to your house if needed, often for no charge at all. We also have

several doctors in my town who specialize in geriatric medicine, palliative care and hospice care. The Geneva YMCA also hosts classes to help promote health and wellness for seniors. There is a grocery deliver service in my town called Instacart which will shop for you and delivery the groceries to your door and can help you put them away if you need them to. There is also free food pantries run by several of the local churches in my town and the fire department once a month hosts a low cost homemade hot dinner that they serve at the fire hall.

CONCLUSIONS

My community, overall in my opinion, has room to grow before it becomes an age-friendly community. I think there are many strengths that my community has including a wonderfully welcoming social environment. However my community definitely need more housing as well as assisted living or retirement home housing.

REFERENCES

- 1.<https://genevahousingauthority.com/>.
- 2.<https://www.flhealth.org/services/rehab-senior-services/senior-services/>
- 3.<https://co.ontario.ny.us/100/Office-for-the-Aging>
- 4.<https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/home-care/info-2020/transportation-services.html>