



RIBBON CUTTING OFFICIALLY OPENS SCVV OFFICE



SCVV Steering Committee and invited guests look on as Ron Kerchner cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the office.

The Bethany/Fenwick Chamber of Commerce helped South Coastal Village Volunteers celebrate the grand opening of our Ocean View office with a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 26. Joining the Steering Committee members, were many local officials.

Sen. Gerald Hocker and Rep. Ron Gray both gave brief remarks congratulating the group, noting the need for the services we offer as the population in the area ages.

Mayors of the four towns in SCVV's service area – Rosemary Hardiman of Bethany Beach, Steve Maneri of Millville, John Reddington of Ocean View, and Tim Saxton of South Bethany – participated, along with Town Managers Debbie Botchie (Millville) and Carol Houck (Ocean View) who are Strategic Partners.

Jackie Sullivan, Executive Director of SCVV's host organization, Village Volunteers, was present, along with Chamber Director Lauren Weaver.

Ron Kerchner, Chairman of the group, served as Master of Ceremonies and introduced the guests. He noted the success of the group in having over forty trained and vetted volunteers, several new members with a number of additional potential members, and in starting to offer services in January.

He thanked the guests for coming and the committee for their tireless work in making SCVV a reality.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS:
TRAINED & READY TO GO!

Liz Bolton and Lois Pastore were two of the five original committee members who founded the South Coastal Village Volunteers. They were so impressed with the Village concept, they offered to serve as Volunteer Coordinators. Pre-pandemic, they participated in the South Coastal Library's Volunteer Fair and attended meetings with the Lord Baltimore Women's Club, the Lord Baltimore Lions Club, church ministers and a number of home owner associations to spread the word about SCVV. You may have seen them at local grocery stores last summer and fall, handing out information about our Village. They have been instrumental in placing rack cards in many local businesses and offices as they continue to educate the public about what SCVV has to offer.

Our "dynamic duo" recruited volunteers from referrals from Survey Monkey and SCVV's

Steering Committee's personal networks, as well as responses to publicity via e-mails and phone calls.

Liz and Lois underwent extensive training by our host organization, Village Volunteers, so that they could train SCVV's volunteers. Each candidate has an interview, followed by two reference checks and a background check provided by a professional service.

Once volunteers are accepted, they receive both orientation and training. They become familiar with the history of the international Village movement. They are educated about membership – where members come from, membership costs and qualifications, and the member intake process.

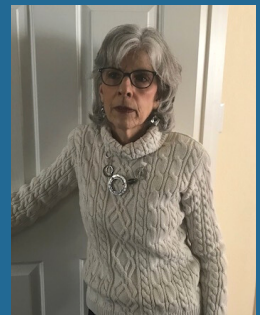
They learn the "Dos" and "Don'ts" of working with older adults, guidelines for emergencies along with the types of services we provide.

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Liz Bolton and her husband came from Montgomery County, MD to live in Bethany Beach in 2014. She retired after a career as an elementary school teacher and an event planner.

Lois Pastore was originally from Westchester County, NY and enjoyed a career as a corporate recruiter and headhunter. She and her husband moved to Ocean View from Connecticut three years ago.



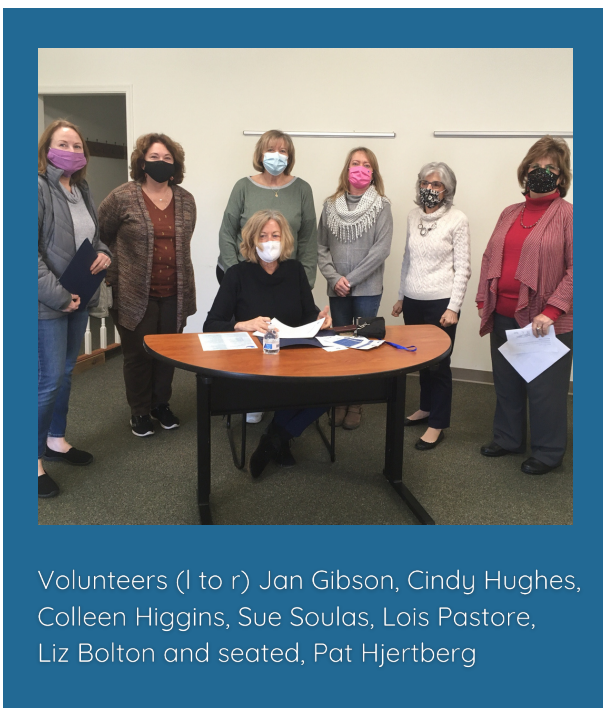
"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

- *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*



After orientation, volunteers learn office skills for working with the Villages' computer systems. They get experience in how to enter data, how to match member requests with volunteers and how to follow up on services provided. Volunteers have the option of choosing what they'd like to do and when they want to do it, so no one is asked to do anything he or she doesn't want to do.

The community's response to SCVV's request for volunteers has exceeded expectations. Liz and Lois have trained almost forty volunteers (not including our ten-member Steering Committee) and have taken great pleasure from meeting and training these talented men and women. As our membership grows, they will be well served by this group of eager, well-trained neighbors.



Volunteers (l to r) Jan Gibson, Cindy Hughes, Colleen Higgins, Sue Soulas, Lois Pastore, Liz Bolton and seated, Pat Hjertberg

MEET OUR FIRST MEMBER:



*Suzanne
Culin*

OCEAN VIEW

Early in January, 2021, South Coastal Village Volunteers enrolled our first member from the community, Suzanne (Sue) Culin. Sue is a very active member of her Ocean View community, where she lives with her Yorkie, April. She learned about SCVV through the Lord Baltimore Women's Club, and is excited about being a part of this new organization.

Sue came to Delaware after residing in northern New Jersey for most of her life.

She enjoyed her career as an elementary school teacher. After she was widowed in 2007 and retired in 2008, she moved to southern Delaware to be near her sister and fell in love with the way of life here.

Not one to slow down, Sue is active in many local groups. For years, Sue worked as a pet sitter. The Center for the Inland Bays was the beneficiary of Sue's volunteering when she spent spring nights counting horseshoe crabs for their annual survey. She has been involved with Lord Baltimore Women's Club, AARP, and her church. The South Coastal Library is one of Sue's favorite places, and she has participated in groups for cooking, musical performances, crafts, and iPad users there.

What services of South Coastal Village Volunteers is Sue hoping to use? She said, "As soon as it's safe to have someone in my house, I need help rotating my mattress!" Since Sue has had both hip and knee replacements, transportation to appointments will be valuable to her, along with help with electronics.

We are pleased to have Sue as our first member, and we are looking forward to providing her and other members with a full range of services in the not-too-distant future.



Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is responsible for completing the day-to-day tasks of organizing the South Coastal Village Volunteers

Ron Kerchner, Chairman
Christine Powers, Vice-Chairman
Betty Martin, Secretary
Elizabeth Bolton & Lois Pastore -
Outreach & Volunteers
Jack Gordon - Finance and Government
Liaison
Joan Gordon - Communications/PR
Kathy Green & Karen Taylor - Development
and Marketing
Diane Strobel - Operations Manager

Strategic Partners

Our Strategic Partners are a group of area professionals who have special skills to contribute to the development and operations of the South Coastal Village Volunteers

Debbie Botchie
Christine Connor
Cliff Gravier
David Green
Maureen Hartman
Carol Houck
Charlie Kopay
Michele Morgan
Annie Raskauskas
John Robbert
Tempe Steen
Claudia Thayne

Thank you

**From the Development Committee: -
Kathy Green and Karen Taylor**

Thank you to all of our donors to the South Coastal Village Volunteers Start Up Campaign. With your generous donations we have been able to rent office space, set up our office in the Ocean View Town Hall, purchase a computer, print all our materials, and so much more.

Your belief in our mission has helped to get us up and running. We now have our first members and are fully operational within our community south of the Indian River bridge. This service to our area comes thanks to your generosity, which has helped to make the services of South Coastal Village Volunteers a reality!

Contact Us!

South Coastal Village Volunteers
302-500-1281
southcoastalvillage@gmail.com
www.villagevolunteer.org



South Coastal Village Volunteers is a branch of Village Volunteers, an IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
For more information, visit www.villagevolunteer.org