



VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO THE ELDERLY

Endowment

Mission

VISTE's mission is to enable elderly persons to remain safely and independently in their own homes.

The Vision

VISTE's vision is to provide opportunities for the elderly to be part of a compassionate and connected community where they age with purpose, dignity, and security.

History

In 1983 a small group of men affiliated with Catholic Social Services saw the need of seniors in our community for transportation assistance to get to medical appointments, the bank, grocery store, and other essential services. Initially 14 volunteers transported 30-40 clients. Thanks to the generosity of many in our community, VISTE has grown over the years to meet an ever-increasing need. Today, more than 4,900 seniors from 70 to 105 years of age receive transportation, hot meals, supplemental groceries, access ramps, reassurance calls, emergency monitoring services, in-home care, and more, free of charge. In addition, over 1,000 volunteers assist with almost all program services, providing a caring connection that helps combat social isolation – a serious risk for seniors, particularly those living alone.

The Need

In the USA, an average of 10,000 Baby Boomers celebrate their 70th birthday every day. That trend began in 2016 and will continue until 2034. At the same time, people are living longer – at present, VISTE's eldest client is 105 years old and still living at home. In Polk County, the proportion of seniors 65+ is higher than the State and the Nation as a whole. Those numbers are projected to continue to increase over the next several decades.

In 2023 VISTE celebrated 40 years of service to local seniors in need! While we have grown, expanded, and adapted over the years, it became clear that VISTE, like other nonprofits, can be financially vulnerable to fluctuations in the economy as well as unexpected events. Many nonprofits across the country have been hit hard, and in some cases, have closed their doors altogether.





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The Goal

To achieve VISTE's vision, the overarching goal is to create long-term organizational sustainability for the benefit of local seniors. We are accomplishing this by establishing, funding, and growing an Endowment Fund, a first for VISTE. The purpose of the Endowment is to generate income in perpetuity (interest income from the fund) that will allow VISTE to respond in the best interest of VISTE clients and the community to changes that inevitably will occur now and into the future.

Why Now

We have learned so much over the past 40+ years that VISTE has been in operation. A key lesson: having a source of annual support that can weather unexpected events is critical for long-term sustainability to be able to meet the needs of our clients. VISTE has a well-earned reputation in the community for compassion, dependability, fiscal responsibility, and prudent use of funds.

How You Can Help

We invite you to reflect on the importance of VISTE in your life, the life of an elderly relative, or your elderly friends and neighbors. VISTE is the ONLY organization in the area that assists this vulnerable population with the services they require to remain safe and independent in their own home... at no cost to them! Perhaps someone you know may need transportation to a medical appointment or appreciate a hot meal delivered by a caring volunteer. Your investment now is the down payment for their future need.

Ways to Give

Many donors are choosing to support the VISTE Endowment through planned/legacy gifts including wills and estates, beneficiary designations, and other methods. Donations from a Donor Advised Fund or Family Foundation are also excellent ways to make a philanthropic gift. If you are considering a legacy gift to VISTE, we suggest meeting with your accountant, estate planning attorney, or financial planner. On behalf of our elderly clients, thank you!

For More Information

We would be pleased to visit in person, by phone, or by email to provide more information and answer any questions. Additional information can also be found on our website at **[VISTE.org/Ways-to-Give-Now](https://www.viste.org/Ways-to-Give-Now)**.

- **Steve Bissonnette**, President: steve@viste.org or (863) 284-0828
- **Dorothy Blackwell**, Development Manager: dorothy@viste.org or (863) 284-0828, ext. 1010

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