



**Get Smart.
Get Connected.
Help Each Other Out.**

Village News

December 2021



To say it's been a memorable year would be an understatement. Despite the lingering global pandemic that we're all still living and navigating through, Seacoast Village Project started to come into its own in 2021. After three years of planning, development, and COVID-19 delays, 2021 was the year when the Seacoast Village Project's vision of building a network of connected older adults who could learn and support one another as they grow older began to become a reality.

As a growing organization, our eyes tend to be on the horizon—trained on the vision that we are striving to achieve. As a result, it can be easy to overlook the progress that is made along the way. So this month, we're using this newsletter as an opportunity to look back and take stock of all the ground we've traveled in 2021.

Since January, we have:

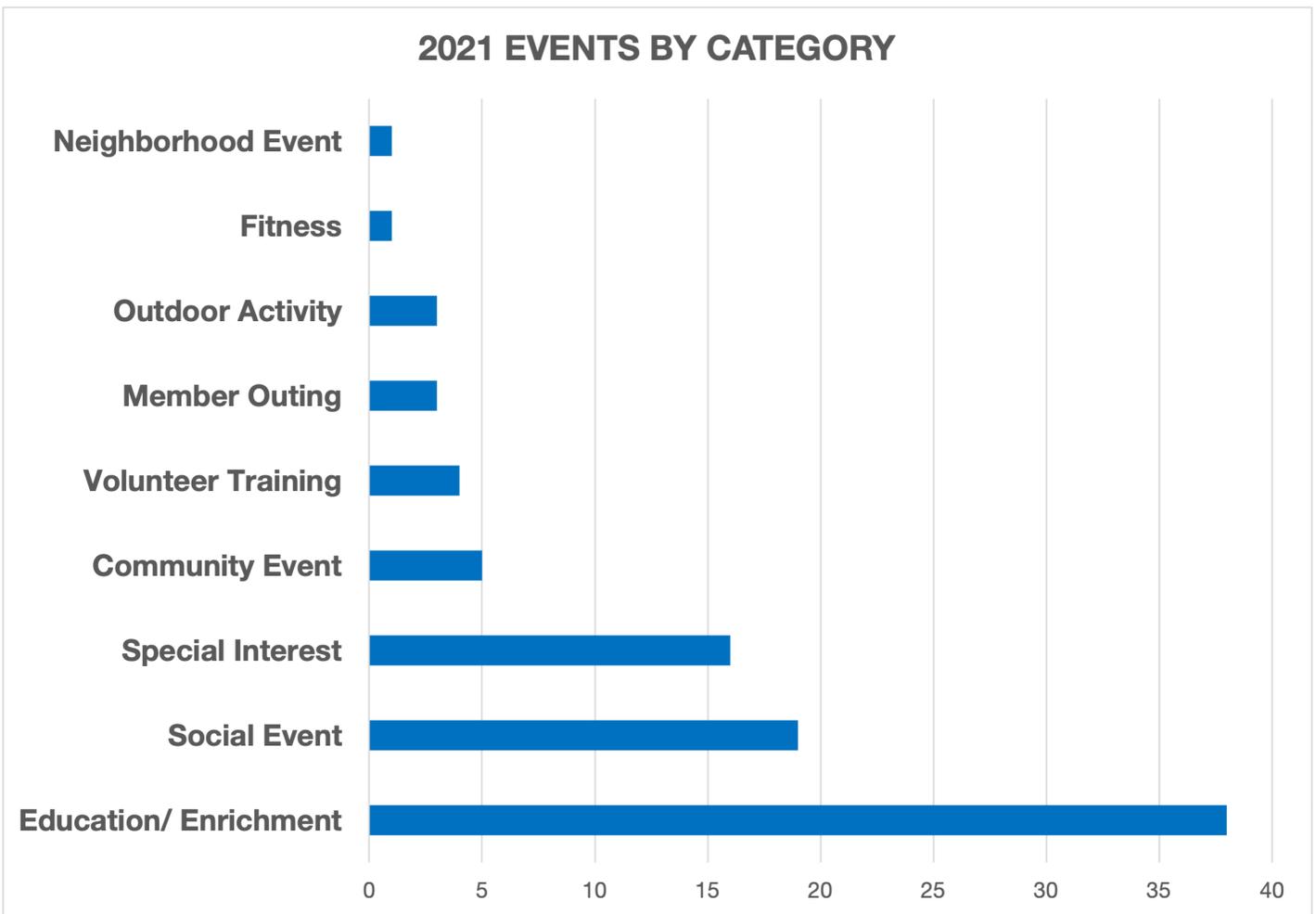
- moved into our first office space at Carey Cottage in Portsmouth;
- grown our membership exponentially from 29 to 150;
- developed and hosted a monthly assortment of educational, social, and information events for both our members and the general public;
- recruited and trained volunteers to help us build the Village;
- expanded our Preferred Provider Database of member-recommended vendors;
- launched a monthly newsletter; and
- continued to shape and refine our understanding of what Village members need and want as they grow older in the home and communities they love.

Together we are laying a solid foundation for the years ahead. Thank you for being part of the Seacoast Village family and for being part of our successes this year.

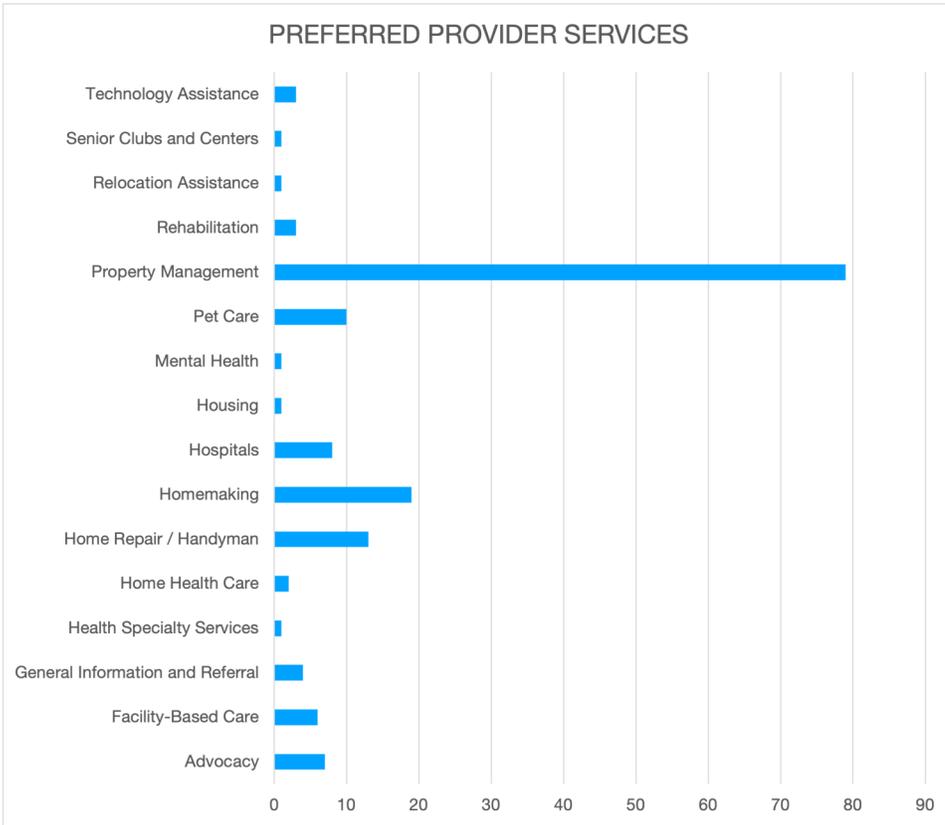
2021 Events: Getting Smart, Getting Connected

In order to better empower seniors to prepare and advocate for themselves in healthcare situations, the Seacoast Village Project launched a monthly “Lunch & Learn” series exploring topics related to medical decision-making. The series first focused on updates on the shifting COVID-19 landscape and then broadened its scope to include how to have difficult end-of-life conversations with family members, demystifying Medicare, paying for care, utilizing veterans benefits, understanding palliative care, and choosing powers of attorney wisely.

In addition to the Lunch & Learn series, the Village hosted a variety of other educational and social programs both virtually and in-person including monthly member potlucks, lunches and coffee hours on the Carey Cottage porch, regional meet-ups around the Seacoast, a trip on the gundalow, and our first large member event in July at Oyster River Farm in Durham.



Get Connected: Growing the Preferred Provider Database



As part of our mission to help members get connected, the Village offers members a Preferred Provider Database, which is comprised of vendors who have been used and recommended by other Village members.

This year, members referred 130 of their most trusted professionals growing our database to a total of 159 providers.

Members can access the Preferred Provider Database by logging into the website and clicking on the Members tab.

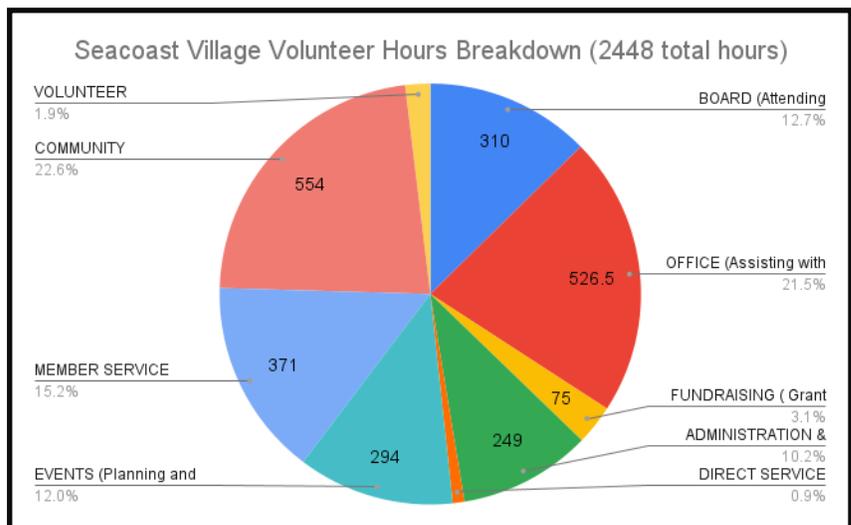
Volunteering: It takes a village to grow a Village

The Village is a member and volunteer run organization. This year, our growing roster of member-volunteers supported the growth of Seacoast Village in three key ways:

Our Village Builder volunteers served on the board of directors, took on key roles in the office as part of our membership team, and helped to develop our operational processes;

Program Volunteers helped to develop and host both our virtual and in-person social and educational events; and

Direct Service volunteers responded to member requests for practical help with errands, grocery shopping, rides, information and referrals.



Village Member Stats

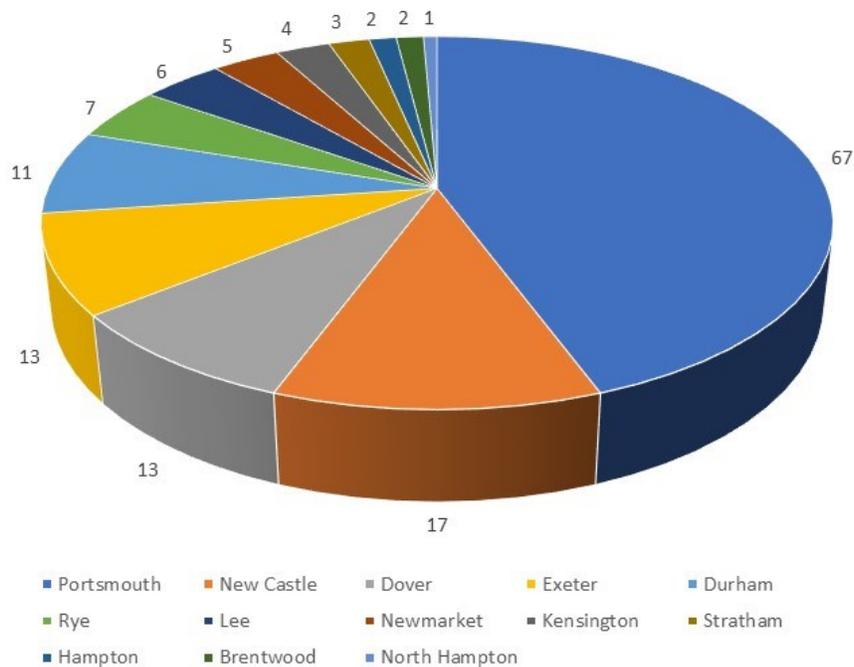
Village members are a diverse group with widely varied backgrounds and interests. Our membership across the Seacoast continues to grow and evolve as neighbors and friends introduce others in their town to the benefits of being a Seacoast Village member.

The following is a snapshot summary of some of the self-identified information our members shared in their Member Directory profiles. Village members can learn more about and connect with their fellow members by signing into to the Village website and clicking on the Members tab to find the full member directory.

Healthcare Professionals: 28
Engineers: 6
Librarians: 4
Retired Military: 8

Musicians: 22
Artists: 20
Kayakers: 11
UNH Marine Docents: 4

Seacoast Village Project Members by Town



Happy Holidays!