



## Join Us Today

### **Make a Difference as an AGent for Change volunteer**

The AGENTS for Change Silicon Valley volunteer program is building a community of constituents, concerned citizens, caregivers and stakeholders engaged in advocacy and social action to support key issues related to aging in our communities.

You don't have to be an expert in governmental affairs or even issues related to healthy aging. Just share your knowledge, passion and interest in making Santa Clara County a livable community for all ages, especially for older adults.

A few key issues volunteer AGENTS are currently working on or researching:

- Pedestrian safety around Senior and Community Centers
- Central accessible information
- Cities and County funding for Senior services
- Managed Care programs for Medical/Medicare eligible individuals

You can invest as little or as much time as you would like on the issues you care most about like transportation, caregiver issues, health care etc.

### **What do AGENTS for Change do?**

Volunteers decide how they want to contribute but often include a variety of activities such as:

1. Research issues and concerns important to seniors and their families.
2. Work together to develop solutions to the gaps in support and services.
3. Answer calls to action-*Example*- Write a letter to your elected official.
4. Meet with decision makers who can impact policy change.
5. Speak at City Council or County Board of Supervisors meetings on behalf of a specific issue.
6. Recruit or make calls to other volunteers.
7. Share stories, passion and care.

## What are the Benefits of Joining AGEnts for Change?

You can get invest as little or as much time as you would like on the issues you care most about like transportation, caregiver issues, health care etc. As an AGEnt you will also:

- Receive regular updates and action alerts about state, county and local senior issues to stay informed on key issues.
- Work with others to develop solutions to pressing problems.
- Participate with other liked minded individuals and partner organizations in the Santa Clara County aging network.
- Learn ways to be an effective advocate for issues you care about
- Connect with new friends to make a difference.

## Who Sponsors AGEnts for Change?

The program is a partnership between The Health Trust's Healthy Aging Initiative and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County's Older Adult Services. It is funded by a grant from The SCAN Foundation. The Healthy Aging Initiative works to ensure that older adults spend more years in good health and engaged as vital members of our community. Catholic Charities Older Adult Services offers a number of services to low-income seniors and their caregivers to help keep families together while empowering older adults to stay involved in their community, as well as serving as our County's Ombudsman for older adults living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities to ensure they are being cared for properly.

Our fastest growing population, adults 65 and up—from the baby boomers to those surpassing age 85—comprise an incredibly diverse group with varied needs as well as valuable assets to contribute to the community at large.

## How Do I Join?

Complete and return the attached application and if you have questions or need more information contact: **Beverly DeKoven** [beverlyD@healthtrust.org](mailto:beverlyD@healthtrust.org), 408-513-8726





## Volunteer as an **AGENT for Change**

### What You'll Gain...

- ✓ Learn about issues in aging
- ✓ Receive training in advocacy and leadership
- ✓ Build relationships with advocates and policymakers
- ✓ Partner with others to find viable solutions

### Ways to Get Involved –



<p><b>1. Subscribe to the AGENTS monthly on-line newsletter</b></p>	
<p><b>2. Answer calls to action</b> <i>Example: write a letter or call your elected official about a specific topic or decision on aging (templates provided)</i></p>	
<p><b>3. Explore or organize around specific issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Attend meetings related to an area of interest (<i>transportation, nutrition, etc</i>)</li> <li>b. Speak with key policymakers on behalf of a specific issue or position</li> <li>c. Research to learn more about issues or identify viable solutions</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Lead advocacy efforts on identified priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recruit or connect to additional advocates</li> <li>b. Review latest needs assessments or changes in the environment that affect an issue</li> <li>c. Assist with scheduling and planning meetings</li> <li>d. Work with other advocates to develop the advocacy action plan</li> <li>e. Help facilitate communication among AGENTS for Change staff &amp; volunteers</li> </ul>	



## AGENTS for Change Volunteer Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If more than one telephone, please indicate preference)*

*In addition to advocacy, please  areas with which you would be willing to help:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Follow up telephone calls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Take pictures at events
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Media help	<input type="checkbox"/>	Note taking at meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep community calendar up to date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Writing and editing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assist planning regular AGENTS meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Please list skills or talents you would like to contribute:

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there organizations with which you are affiliated that should know about AGENTS for Change?

\_\_\_\_\_

Languages fluent other than English: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about AGENTS for Change? (check all that apply)

Flyer\_\_\_ Health Trust\_\_\_ Catholic Charities\_\_\_ Friend\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information you would like to share about your interest in advocacy for older adults:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***If you have questions or need more information contact:*** Beverly DeKoven, [beverlyD@healthtrust.org](mailto:beverlyD@healthtrust.org), 408-513-8726

***Return completed forms to: The Health Trust, AGENTS for Change, 3180 Newberry Drive, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95118***



AGENTS for Change