

Join us in our work!

The Sustainable Village  
is for all people  
regardless of  
income level

Find us on Facebook at  
The Sustainable Village

&

TheSustainableVillage.org  
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Empowering the majority  
by collaboratively  
producing the necessities of  
life via a network of  
Sustainable Villages

From urban to rural

And from  
local to global

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At about 1/5<sup>th</sup> the cost of  
low cost rental based housing  
and home ownership is included.

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“Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful , committed people can  
change the world, Indeed it is the  
only thing that ever has”

Margaret Mead

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“Give a person a fish, and you feed  
them for a day. Teach them to fish,  
and you feed them for a lifetime.”

Anne Isabella

Lao-Tzu

“an old Navajo proverb”

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Ink People Center for the Arts

# The Sustainable Village



*A 21<sup>st</sup> century  
agrarian, craft &  
small business  
based village  
providing homes  
and employment to  
all in need*

## The Situation:

**Homelessness, and being chronically poor, is on the rise in major cities and small towns throughout the U.S. and around the world!**

- ▶ Most people are finding living wage employment harder to find, or no longer available.
- ▶ Lacking a living wage, a small financial “bump in the road” can push individuals and families over the economic edge.
- ▶ If one lacks sufficient familial or cultural support systems to fall back on, one might have little alternative but to seek assistance from social safety net programs.
- ▶ Overwhelming demand for such programs has outstripped their ability to meaningfully service people in need, decades ago.
- ▶ Likewise, private charities cannot meet the increased demand for services either, as a result people often end up on the streets.
- ▶ Once on the streets, most people find that making their way back is extremely difficult.
- ▶ Unfortunately this is a deepening, long term and systemic trend!
- ▶ Fortunately we now have an opportunity to solve this ever increasing calamity, on condition we work together to do the following:

## The Opportunity:

**Establish very low cost, scalable, participant driven live /work villages for anyone who so wishes, especially people in need.**

We can accomplish this by:

- ▶ Forming a non-profit / public benefit business structure, and applying to already existing funding streams.
- ▶ Acquiring land and permits, and then building low cost cottages, and other necessary infrastructure - built in the Habitat for Humanity style of collaborative and sustainable building.
- ▶ Utilizing economies of scale, the more people who participate the lower the cost per person. The result is everyone can make ends meet, save money, and have some extra time to enjoy life.
- ▶ Offering home ownership for everyone, including the most in need. Otherwise for the poor, retirement often results in no way to pay the rent.
- ▶ Utilizing appropriate technologies such as organic gardening, sustainable energy generation, green building and craftsman’s guilds. We can grow, build, produce, repair, up-cycle and recycle much of what we need. In this way live well, on a much lower budget.
- ▶ Establishing worker-owned businesses and/or options for employment, also ensures financial viability for everyone involved.

Summer 2020

## The Solution:

**You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.**

- R. Buckminster Fuller

### **Local Pilot Projects Then Scale up!**

It is our intention to create pilot projects, and demonstrate the cost effectiveness of this approach to eliminate homelessness, poverty and being chronically poor.

While at the same time improving the environment and fostering a culture of collaboration, creativity, stability and kindness.

Once the pilot projects are established, we intend to initiate sustainable villages in many other locations to address the widespread existing and future need!

- ▶ We shall establish ongoing workshops to explore and address everything from group decision making and team building skills, to early childhood trauma and dealing with PTSD, food production and wellness care, to energy generation and green building skills.
- ▶ As sustainable villages become established within a given jurisdiction, the cost to sustain people who *were* homeless, poor, or in poverty, within that jurisdiction will decline dramatically.

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