



TRAIL of Johnson County: Our Origin Story

TRAIL began when two groups of Iowa City friends and retirees, both of which were exploring ways to remain in their own homes as they grew older, found one another and began a new collaboration.

One group included retired UI faculty, staff and friends who, with generous grants from the [UI Retirees Association](#), purchased membership in the [Village to Village Network](#) (VtV), an affiliation of more than 250 aging-in-place organizations nationwide. VtV gave the UI group access to webinars and helped establish a mentoring relationship with SAIL (Sharing Active Independent Lives) in Madison, WI. The UI group also reached out to local partners, such as the UI Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center, Livable Community, Elder Services, and the Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP), to expand their knowledge about aging-in-place options.

Meanwhile, a separate group of friends in Iowa City's Northside neighborhood, who hoped to continue living and aging in their multigenerational neighborhood instead of moving to senior-living communities, had been researching these issues as well.

The Northside group discovered the UI group in a listing on the VtV website in early 2015. When the two groups came together to combine their knowledge, resources, and aging-in-place mission, TRAIL was born. We incorporated as a nonprofit in 2016 and opened our doors to membership in April 2017.