

'Aging in Community' Appreciative Inquiry

Date: _____

Name of Interviewer:

Organizational Affiliation:

Name of Interviewee:

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #1: _____ Phone #2: _____

Interviewee Age: _____ Gender: ___ Female ___ Male

Race or Ethnicity: _____

Location of interview if different from address above:

Name and relationship to interviewee of other people present during the interview:

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What do you think of as your neighborhood, where you live or work, and what do you call it?

5th Ward

Magnolia Park

Sunnyside

Other _____

Caring Communities. Long-time residents of a community develop strong ties to their neighborhood by witnessing its growth and development. Over the years we have seen our neighbors work together and help one another in raising strong families, supporting local schools and businesses, improving the neighborhood and celebrating our achievements. Being a part of a community whose neighbors care and support one another gives us a sense of belonging and is a source of pride.

1. As you reflect on the years you have lived or worked in (*name of neighborhood*), tell me about a time when you felt personally supported and cared for by your neighbors and/or community. What happened? Who was involved? What specific qualities or actions made you feel like you belong?

2. What attracted you to this neighborhood? How long have you lived or worked here?
_____ years

3. What are some of the things that you value most about your neighborhood?

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4. Which organizations, individuals and/or programs provide the care and support that make it possible for you to stay living in your community as you grow older?

5. What wishes do you have for making your neighborhood the ideal place to grow older/age?

Home is where the heart is. As in most close relationships, we grow more attached to our home the longer we live in it. Most people spend the rest of their lives in the home where they celebrate their 65th birthday. Our homes are associated with family and friends, a reliable reminder of good times and stability in our lives. Staying in our safe and secure homes as we grow older often makes it easier to adjust to changes in personal health, abilities, relationships and needs.

How long have you lived in your home? ____ years Do you rent or own your home?

1. Tell me about a time when being in your home made it easier for you to overcome a personal challenge that you faced. What was it about your home, or being in your home, that made a difference? What programs, relationships or support networks helped make this happen?

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2. What do you value most about living in your home? What qualities does your home have that make it the very best place for you to be living right now?

3. What wishes do you have for making your home the ideal place to spend the rest of your life?

Aging with dignity. As we grow older, we acquire valuable knowledge and skills that make us more self-sufficient, and the wisdom we've gained becomes an asset to family, friends and neighbors. We pave the way for others to follow and become respected 'neighborhood elders.' With advancing age, we also often experience changes in our personal health, abilities and relationships that may require us to seek assistance with activities of daily living, such as transportation and meal preparation. We expect this assistance to be delivered in a way that maintains our dignity and encourages independence and self-sufficiency.

1. Talk about your personal health situation, and/or any assistance you may be receiving with daily living activities, that allows you to continue living safely and comfortably in your own home?

