

### Abstract

The Baby Boomer Generation in the United States will be over the age of sixty-five as of 2030. Furthermore, by 2034 individuals sixty-five years and older will outnumber those under eighteen. These statistics suggest that knowledge and understanding of the aging population is crucial for the future healthcare professionals, medical providers, and social services.

While the criteria of age friendly communities may vary, the components that are emphasized to great lengths are adequate housing, outdoor space, proper transportation, social services, community support, and health services.

Being aware of the age friendliness of specific communities, such as Tiffin, Ohio, allows for residents to see where they are succeeding and shed light on improvements aimed to better support and accommodate the aging population.

This comparative analysis discusses those aspects and further investigates age friendly communities in Tiffin, OH.

Options

Villas

Elizabeth Shafer Community

Nursing Home/ Assisted Living

> Tiffin Parks System includes pavements, pedestrian crossing, cycle paths, However they lack adequate public toilets. There is decent accessibility but there is not always pavement to amphitheater and railing.

**St. Francis** provides walking trials but lack sidewalk, resting spots and adequate public toilets.

SCAT.

#### Price

**\$2** - within Tiffin \$3 - within 3-mile radius \$4 - within 7-mile radius **\$5** - within the counties Seneca Crawford

# Age Friendliness in Tiffin, Ohio Sydney Berlekamp

University of Findlay

# Housing

Tiffin has a wide range of housing options available for aging population including assisted living, condos, apartments, as well as continuing care retirement communities, for example St. Francis.

| St. Francis CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Commun | ity) |  |
|---|------|--|
|---|------|--|

| Accessibility   | Price  | Access to<br>transportation<br>and retail   | Appropriate<br>design   | Family<br>interactions   | Maintenance  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Single story,<br>handicap<br>accessible<br>rooms.                   | <b>\$3,000-\$5,000</b><br>per month.<br>depending on<br>amount of<br>care & facility<br>chosen | <b>5-10-minute</b><br>drive. Walmart,<br>Kroger, and<br>Pharmacies.<br>Transportation | Single story,<br>accessible,<br>one/two-<br>bedroom,<br>kitchen,<br>bathroom,<br>living room. | Family is free<br>to visit at<br>any time of<br>the day  | Resident<br>responsible for<br>utilities, service<br>fee covers<br>maintenance |
| 4 levels, stairs<br>and elevators<br>available. All<br>own bed/bath |  | available: SCAT,<br>Tiffin Cab, and<br>St. Francis Bus<br>-Schedule<br>-Long wait     | Single room,<br>attached<br>bathroom.<br>Chair, bed,<br>dresser, TV,<br>nightstand            | Family is free<br>to visit at<br>any time of<br>the day -<br><b>must sign in</b><br><b>and out</b> | Service Fee - all<br>maintenance is<br>covered                                 |

# **Outdoor Spaces**

#### Transportation

In Tiffin, there are a few options available for various transportation. For example, the Tiffin Taxi and Tiffin TreEats – a hometown take on uber/lyft. A major option is

|   | SCAT (Seneca Crawford Area Transportation) |  |                          |                  |   |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|------------------|---|
|   | Reliability                                | Travel Stops   | Age-Friendly<br>Vehicles | Priority Seating | Trained Drivers   |
| 2 | Yes  | Curb/curb or<br>door/door as<br>requested when<br>scheduling | Yes                      | Yes              | Drivers are trained<br>for vehicles &<br>assisting<br>passengers –<br>however they are<br>in no means<br>allowed to enter a<br>household. |

# **Community Support**

Two unique options that are available for community support within Tiffin, OH are:

Allen Eiry Senior Center while increase community life and civic leadership through health, educational, social, and recreational activities in and around Tiffin. Their programs offer flexibility and provides new skills for individuals.

**Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP)** is a program through the neighboring counties that support volunteering at food pantry, schools, and CASA.

# **Social Services**

While this is not an end-all-be-all list, there are a several options available for elderly community members.

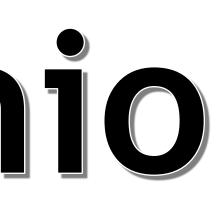
| Social Services Examples |   |                                |                       |  |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Options Available        | Age-Friendly Services                         | Intergenerational Interactions | No Economic Exclusion |  |
| YMCA                     | Yes   | No                             | No Economic Exclusion |  |
| Reading Volunteers       | Yes   | Yes                            | N/A                   |  |
| Religious Services       | Yes<br>St. Joseph's Catholic Weekend          | N/A                            | N/A                   |  |
|                          | Masses - 5:30 (Sat),<br>7:30/9:30/11:30 (Sun) | Ny A                           |                       |  |
| BINGO                    | Yes   | No                             | No Economic Exclusion |  |

# Health and Wellness

Within Tiffin, OH, there is a decent amount of healthcare that is available - Mercy health consists of an ER, hospital with 31 beds, therapy, endocrinologist, cardiologists, and PCPs readily available. Many other specialties and PCP are provided within Tiffin - including dentists and optometrists.

However, it is not uncommon to be sent to other specialists in surrounding areas - Findlay, Toledo, BG, and Columbus. Typically individuals must find their own transportation.

Regarding groceries, several retirement communities/Allen Eiry have specific times in which they will transport individuals to stores.



## Conclusion

After the comparative analysis was completed, information was gathered and assessed regarding Tiffin, OH. Overall, the community does have a great deal of amenities that benefit the aging population. However, there are still room for improvements – especially in the outdoor space category.

This was an eye-opening research analysis, with the information that was provided this will be a step in the correct direction in improving the environment for those individuals who are aging in the community.

#### References

1. Allen Eiry Center. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.alleneiry.com/

2. Senior Corps RSVP.(n.d.).Retrieved from https://rsvp.fcsserves.org/

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*4. St. Francis Senior Ministry* [Brochure]. (n.d.).