



Background Information

The Transition Network is the only national nonprofit focused on professional women fifty and forward who are exploring what's next in their professional and personal lives. Our members are living the trends that affect today's women over 50, and defining new paths for this stage of life. For more information, contact us at info@thetransitionnetwork.org

Our History

In the late '90s, co-founders Charlotte Frank and Christine Millen realized it was time to leave the careers that had defined them. They thought "retirement feels like a big empty space...and we're going to live to be 90, so we have a lot of time ahead of us. How do we make the most of these years?" The Transition Network grew from those conversations among our founders and 10 friends in New York City living rooms.

Both co-founders were awarded Civic Ventures Purpose Prize Fellowships in 2006, and Charlotte Frank was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship in 2007, recognizing her social entrepreneurship in launching The Transition Network.

Today, TTN has over 2,000 members in 11 chapters across the country. These chapters offer over 100 programs each year for members and guests. There are also over 150 peer groups where members connect to support each other in their transitions.

Our current chapters are located in:

Atlanta	Boston
Central Ohio	Chicago
Long Island	New York City
North/Central New Jersey	Philadelphia
San Francisco Bay Area	Santa Fe
Washington, DC	

Who we are

Our members are women whose careers shaped their identities - the first generation of women facing the challenge of what to do after the end of your career. They come from a variety of professional backgrounds including education, law, counseling, marketing, social work, medicine, finance, nonprofits and government. They're active, eager to learn and stay involved with their communities.

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What we do

The Transition Network brings members together for learning through over 100 programs each year. Featured speakers have included Jane Bryant Quinn, Gail Sheehy, Jean Chatzky, Diane Rehm and Cokie Roberts. Members support each other through 150 peer groups, meeting monthly to focus on a variety of topics: finding your next career, caregiving, launching a business, healthy cooking and cultural activities and anything else members want to get together and talk about.

Co-founder Charlotte Frank launched our innovative peer health program, the **Caring Collaborative**, in 2007. Funded by a New York State Health Foundation grant, the Caring Collaborative developed models for individuals to provide support in times of health crisis, medical information sharing within their network and a "vertical village" method of organizing apartment building to provide informal health support. Three manuals, available at no charge at www.ttnccaringcollaborative.org, offer resources for others to create their own service network, vertical village and discharge planning support. The Caring Collaborative was featured in a September 2011 [New York Times](#) article that highlighted the value of our how-to manuals for other networks, as well as its benefits for individuals.

Our impact

The Transition Network's *Smart Women Don't Retire - They Break Free* (2008, Hachette Book Group) combines member stories and expert advice for women thinking about what's next. It won a National Mature Market Media award.

We are a leader in the positive aging movement that is defining new opportunities for people 50 and forward. We work with national organizations including AARP, Civic Ventures, Coming of Age and the Life Planning Network, as well as public library boomer programs, Ys and JCCs, alumni organizations, the Village to Village Network, outplacement firms and lifelong learning programs.

Transition Network members are role models and regular speakers on career transitions and "taking risks after 50." Their stories have been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Business Week*, *US News & World Report*, *Forbes*, *Newsday*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Woman's Day*, as well as in Gail Sheehy's *Passages in Caregiving*, Marc Freedman's *The Big Shift: Navigating the New Stage Beyond Midlife*, Suzanne Braun Levine's *How We Love Now* and Kerry Hannon's *What's Next*.