

## **Celebrating Community and Choice in a Conversation with Dr. Atul Gawande**

### **Dr. Gawande to speak at Beacon Hill Village's 15th Anniversary Event which will be simulcast to Folks at Home in Sewanee**

Sewanee, Tennessee— Folks at Home is proud to announce that renowned surgeon, public health researcher and writer Dr. Atul Gawande will be the guest speaker at the 15th Celebration of the founding of Beacon Hill Village and the subsequent Village Movement their innovative model inspired on Monday, February 13, 2017. His conversation, entitled "*Being Mortal's* Villages: The Value of Community and Choice as we Grow Older," will feature a discussion on aging, living life with purpose, and how we can transform the possibilities for the later chapters in everyone's lives.

The event will begin at 4pm CST and will be simulcast from Boston to more than 150 of the 350-plus villages open and in development across the country, including Folks at Home in Sewanee. All are welcome to join Folks at Home and Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Vanderbilt Center for Quality in Aging for this viewing.

Community and choice are concepts long honored across the United States. They are also among the life altering concepts in Dr. Gawande's seminal book *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, and the underlying principles of Beacon Hill Village, whose founders were determined to remain in their own homes as they aged. To accomplish this goal, they created an organization, a *virtual village*, which opened in Boston's Beacon Hill in January of 2002 and enabled people over 50 years of age the option of choosing how and where they live as they grow older. The concepts behind Beacon Hill Village have spread across the country, thus creating a "Village Movement" and have attracted the interest of many countries around the world.

One of the great issues world wide today is how to support and care for aging populations. By 2030, twenty percent (20%) of our nation's population will be over 65, an estimated 83 million people. The numbers are even larger in many countries around the world. The Village concept and Dr. Gawande's profound understanding of the importance of community and choice offer valuable insights and solutions for this challenging phenomenon. The Village Movement is a burgeoning, world-wide movement that champions an alternative approach for adults as they grow older. Villages are unique in that they are created by and for older adults, empowering their members to make wise, safe, and vibrant choices about how they wish to live.

For more information about this important event please call Margaret A. Genendlis at 615. 936.1499. Folks at Home is coordinating this event in collaboration with Arcadia at Sewanee, Department of Religious Studies, University of the South, Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Vanderbilt Center for Quality in Aging, Tennessee Geriatrics Society, Tennessee Association of Long Term Care Physicians, Alive Hospice, VA Tennessee Valley Health System, and Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center.

Folks at Home is a non-profit organization in Sewanee, Tennessee that coordinates services to empower individuals to live at home with dignity in the community they love.

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