



Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing Receives LTC & Senior Living LINK Spirit of Innovation Award

The Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing has earned a LTC & Senior Living LINK *Spirit of Innovation Award* for its eHealth initiative that uses broadband-enabled technologies to create an ecosystem of care for an underserved population of diverse and linguistically-isolated seniors. It does so through digital health literacy, remote patient monitoring, teleconsultations, and medication monitoring.

The *Spirit of Innovation Award*, which the Front Porch Center received in the Assistive and Predictive Technology Category, recognizes companies for their innovation, dedication to continuous improvement, development of best practices and commitment to the success of the long-term care and senior living industry. The Front Porch Center was recently honored during the LTC & Senior Living LINK Conference in Chicago.



“We are thrilled and humbled to receive the LTC & Senior Living LINK Spirit of Innovation Award,” said Kari Olson, president of the Front Porch

Center. “We strive to close the gap by bringing innovative technological solutions to older adults that can assist them in proactively managing their own health and wellbeing.”

Through various technologies, the MeHCA project connects underserved older adults to resources that help them live well.

The Front Porch Center, founded on the belief that technology innovation plays a vital role in enhancing wellbeing, has been at the forefront of using technology to help older adults live healthier – and active – lifestyles. In May, the Front Porch Center announced successful results from its “Minding Our Meds: Demonstrating Senior Medication Adherence with Cell Phone Texting Reminders” pilot project, which featured customized texting services for medication alerts, diabetes and other chronic disease medication reminders, and medication tracking programs for seniors at Front Porch communities and neighboring senior centers.

Earlier this year, The Front Porch Center piloted a CyberCycle fitness program which included two teams of 10-12 residents from a pair of Southern California Front Porch communities. CyberCycles are specially-designed bikes equipped with virtual-reality screens to simulate outdoor biking and racing.

The LTC & Senior Living LINK Conference brings together real-world, successful initiatives from long-term care and senior living providers and covers the timeliest and most topical industry issues – addressing the full scope of providers' business needs.

During the LTC luncheon, Olson and Davis Park, director of the Front Porch Center, presented a case study of The Front Porch Center's eHealth initiative -- Model eHealth Community for Aging (MeHCA) project.

In the presentation, Olson and Park discussed the best methods for use of today's technology, as well as the need for technology to become more sensitive to multi-cultural needs and environments.

The MeHCA project uses broadband-enabled technology to proactively support health and wellness needs and improve access to care for underserved and low-income older adults at affordable housing communities, community health clinics and other anchor institutions in Los Angeles' Koreatown neighborhood. The project leverages broadband-enabled



A Carlsbad By The Sea Retirement Community resident uses the CyberCycle.

technology – video conferencing, health kiosks with peripherals, Wi-Fi, a mobile computer lab, the Dakim Brain Fitness program, L.A. County Safety Net eConsult Program and electronic health records (EHR) – to empower a community of providers to extend existing business models and services to create a coordinated and comprehensive ecosystem of health/wellness resources.

“At a time when people are looking to technology to serve older adults and transform aging in place, it's important not to lose sight of what is currently available with technology,” Park said. “Using that technology more efficiently and coordinating efforts across organizations can really change and impact lives.”

The Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing is part of Front Porch, one of Southern California's largest not-for-profit providers of retirement living communities and affordable housing. The Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing strives to harness technology solutions that support and enhance wellbeing in older adults. The Front Porch Center's core initiatives focus on how technology can: assist in maintaining brain health; enhance social connectedness; promote engagement and growth; empower control over health and wellness; prevent emergencies or serious events; and increase resources and support for formal and informal caregivers. More information is available at www.fpctiw.org.

About Front Porch

Front Porch is one of the largest not-for-profit providers of retirement living communities in Southern California. Front Porch active adult and full-service retirement communities offer a full range of options from independent living to continuing care, along with specialized programs like memory support. With innovative communities and programs that meet the changing needs of people as they age, Front Porch communities represent a leading-edge approach to wellness in aging. Front Porch is comprised of 11 full-service retirement communities in California and two adult living communities: one in Louisiana and one in Florida. Of these, five are Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC). Front Porch, based in Burbank, Calif. and founded in 1999, is a not-for-profit organization that gives back to its residents and the communities it serves.

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