



CENTER FOR INNOVATION
AND WELLBEING

For Immediate Release
For more information, contact:
Bernadette De Mesa
FrontPorch@graham-associates.com
(415) 986-7212

Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing Receives National Award for Smart Home Technology Use

*Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging recognizes innovative approaches
to serving older adults in original and exciting ways*

GLENDALE, Calif. (April 2, 2019) – [Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing \(FPCIW\)](#) has been selected by [Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging](#) as a recipient of the 2018 [Promising Practices Award](#), which highlights organizations that are moving away from conventional practices by developing and implementing new and innovative approaches in aging well or long-term care and senior living communities. FPCIW was selected based on its plan and toolkit for bringing to life the potential of Amazon Alexa and other virtual personal assistants for maintaining older adults' independence.

“The Promising Practices Award honors the Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing for their successful pilot program to test Amazon Alexa on Echo and Dot devices with residents at a Front Porch retirement community,” said Cate O’Brien, AVP, Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging. “We hope this award-winning project will serve as a catalyst for organizations around the country to spark innovative ideas for their programs.”

FPCIW's [“Voice First” and smart home technology program](#) examined how voice assistance and home automation technology could help promote greater convenience, independence, and well-being for older adults. The project not only introduced voice and smart home innovation to residents but developed an engagement strategy that promoted a sustainable community adoption model. The FPCIW team packaged their

program into an “Alexa in a Box” toolkit that customized the experience for users and incorporated staff and resident involvement procedures.

“The opportunities of voice-enabled technologies to empower individuals to live well and independently as they age are undeniable and compelling,” says Davis Park, executive director of the FPCIW. “Our program and its participants demonstrated not only the value and impact of voice innovations on aging, but its expansive potential in addressing the personalization and unique needs of older adults.

Support from the [Consumer Technology Association Foundation](#) has enabled FPCIW to further expand their initiative to additional communities through the Voice-assisted Smart Home and Independence (VISHN) project. FPCIW’s impact story and full pilot report on the Alexa project can be found on its website [here](#).

A full complimentary report on the 2018 Promising Practices winners and honorable mentions and Innovation at Work 2018 is available for download at [matherlifewaysinstituteonaging.com/promising](#). Nominations will open in June for the 2019 Promising Practices Awards, with a submission deadline in August.

About the Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing

The Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing (FPCIW) is part of [Front Porch](#), one of Southern California’s largest not-for-profit providers of retirement living, active adult and affordable housing communities. In collaboration with innovative [partner organizations](#), the FPCIW reaches across cultural and socioeconomic barriers to meet the diverse needs and enhance the well-being of Front Porch residents and the older adult population at large. Using technology as a tool to solve real-world problems, the FPCIW pilots innovative technology solutions that change lives and make a difference. Its core initiatives aim to 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.

The FPCIW has achieved sustainable outcomes with real impact, a challenge in this sector. As a creative ecosystem developer, the FPCIW builds pilots using a collaborative 360-degree approach to matching needs, anticipating barriers, identifying solutions and executing steps to successful implementation and adoption. Learn about FPCIW’s work by reading its [impact stories](#). The FPCIW is the signature program of [Humanly Possible®](#), Front Porch’s commitment to

cause-based innovation and dedication to doing everything humanly possible to creatively meet needs now and in the future. For more information visit www.fpciw.org.

About Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging

Based in Evanston, Illinois, Mather LifeWays is a 75+-year-old unique, nondenominational not-for-profit organization that enhances the lives of older adults by creating Ways to Age WellSM. Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging serves as an award-winning resource for research and information about wellness, aging, trends in senior living, and successful aging service innovations. Known for its vision of changing the way society views aging, Mather LifeWays is committed to transforming practices, perspectives, and language surrounding aging, and partnered with LeadingAge in 2015 to change the category name for Life Plan Communities. The landmark Age Well Study is the latest example of its commitment to the industry. To learn more about Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging, or Mather LifeWays senior residences and community-based initiatives, find your way to matherlifeways.com.

###