

COLLAGE CONVERSATIONS



Lutheran Homes of Michigan Helps Seniors Lead Healthier Lives By Todd Seibt

Lutheran Homes of Michigan (LHM) is combining the newest technology with personal services and wellness to help seniors maintain healthier, happier lives — wherever they call home.

Tied in with Lutheran Homes Christ-centered values, the result is Christian care with a very modern twist. Utilizing the health and wellness assessment software, COLLAGE, older adult communities and aging service providers are able to facilitate the improvement of its senior resident's and client's health and wellbeing.

“With this new software, our health care professionals engage seniors of all faiths in a conversation about their lives,” said Monique Bonkowski of Lutheran Homes. “This helps them talk about their wellness related to their aging.”

In the past, this type of assessment tended to be a clinical ‘check the box’ routine. Utilizing the COLLAGE software turns this into a warm and caring conversation.

Bonkowski reports, “Seniors love it! In fact, at the end of a COLLAGE conversation, they often feel they’ve made a new friend. In a sense, they really have, because we listen to them talk about what really matters to them — their preferences, their health goals, their needs.”

COLLAGE helps LHM serve seniors and live the faith in the real world — by helping them lead better, safer, healthier lives.

A COLLAGE conversation provides important, detailed data for seniors and their caregivers. By evaluating activities of daily living, LHM professionals create a life enrichment plan specialized for each senior.

Teamed with Lutheran Homes’ personal services, COLLAGE can help a senior stay in his/her home longer and more safely. In some cases, recommendations might include something as simple as someone walking a beloved dog while a senior is recovering from surgery. In others, recommendations may incorporate a broader array of services, including transportation, light housekeeping, or even regular visits for personal care. LHM also sees COLLAGE as opening a door for new, vibrant ministry opportunities and potential partnerships with local Lutheran churches.

“At Lutheran Homes, our mission is to serve the elderly and their caregivers with compassion, respect, spiritual support, and a clear focus on independence, personal dignity, and service excellence,” Bonkowski said. “The COLLAGE conversation turns those values directly into Christian service and action.”

For more information about Lutheran Homes of Michigan and COLLAGE, please contact Monique Bonkowski at 989.262.7414 or at mbonkowki@lhminc.org.

Lutheran Homes of Michigan is a non-profit, faith-based agency that provides residential living and skilled home care services to hundreds of seniors in Michigan. As one of the largest non-profit providers of residential senior services in the state, LHM has more than 800 living units, comprised of skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living, condominium living, and affordable housing. LHM also serves about 1,000 people a year through hospice and home care services. More information: www.AgingEnriched.org.

Todd Seibt is the Director of Communications for the Lutheran Homes of Michigan.