

Technology Helps Those With Dementia

By Jack York, It's Never 2 Late

The last few years have seen an exponential growth in the use of technology by older adults. Whatever metrics you look at: (Internet usage, iPad sales, Facebook, etc.)--all demonstrate the same outcome: "the "aging market" is a growth engine for technology.

The stereotypical perspective of this growth, however, is the happy, healthy, busy 65 to 75 year old pecking away at his or her iPad, loading conventional content, staying engaged and connected with family and friends.

However, the demographic virtually forgotten in this revolution is the person one step removed from that perception, the older adult, sometimes much older adult that may be dealing with various types of physical and cognitive disabilities, particularly dementia.

Our company has been trying to change that perception since our inception in 1999. We have been driven since day one to show older adults dealing with physical and cognitive disabilities (and most importantly, their families) that technology is as relevant for them as it is for the 72 year old playing tennis on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It's taken a long time and multiple technological innovations to succeed in changing that perception.

Our model—for now—is not driven to provide technology for individuals living at home. We deliver our technology into nursing homes, assisted living communities and adult day programs throughout the country.

Over 2,000 different communities have our systems up and running.



Jack York demonstrating system with executive director Sally Plank of Sunny View

We integrate multiple touch screen experiences all designed to reach individuals wherever they are physically or cognitively.

Most of us are so used to dramatic technological innovations that we easily become cynical and take giant leaps of technology for granted.

Not so for the large number of individuals living with dementia in nursing homes. The look of absolute astonishment on their faces when exposed to off the shelf technologies (Skype, Google Earth, Kinect) is priceless.

One of our clients in the San Francisco Bay Area is the Sunny View Retirement Community in Cupertino, CA—a member of the Front Porch communities and services. In June 2015, Sunny View launched iN2L system as part of a research study driven by the Front Porch Center for Innovation and Wellbeing. In just a few short months, they have seen these results among their patients:

- Overall increase in energy level by 30%
- Overall mood improvement by 24%
- More group interactions by 22%
- Improved motor skills by 16-38%
- Staff-resident relationship improvement by 25-27%
- Staff-resident family relationship improvement by 43%
- Improved most recent family visit by 57%

"This 'inspirational technology' has been a game changer for our Sunny View Community," Sally K. Plank said, executive director of Sunny View. "It encompasses a way to engage all residents, staff and family like no other platform I have ever seen."

Individuals struggling with what type of community to choose for their mom or dad are starting to demand these types of experiences.

To learn more about "It's Never 2 Late," contact Jack York at 303.806.0797. www.in2L.com.