

I am grateful for the opportunity to share and for technology during social distancing! We are enjoying helping residents with dementia learn to skype and facetime with loved ones! And our live in Family Of Friends approach to staffing has helped to keep everyone safe and ensured adequate staffing. Around the country long term care settings and homecare providers are struggling to find staff coverage. Some are using virtual staff. While grateful for technology, that is an application I do not care to try.

10,000 Baby Boomers now turn 65 every day. 75% live with multiple health conditions. Around the country, one in five long term care staff positions are vacant and staff turnover averages 50%. The need for hands-on caregivers is growing and the potential workforce is not there. We know low wages keep this sector of the workforce living in poverty, some facing homelessness. We believe a fresh approach to how we live and care for our vulnerable citizens and their caregivers is overdue.

At Hope & A Future we are reaching out to the fastest growing segments of the population, older adults and families with young children living at or below the poverty threshold. Across the country, 40% of children are now living in poverty. Young adults and children growing up in generational poverty report having no expectation of future success. Yet, we have hope! Young and old are uniquely equipped to help each other flourish and our model taps into the synergy of their needs and strengths.

Early in my nursing career I observed older adults crowded together in a nursing home with heads hanging low and eyes closed as overburdened staff passed out meal trays with minimal communication. Looking at this sad scene I wondered how meaningful relationships could be developed--especially across generations. My conclusions are a driving force behind the Therapeutic Interactive Intergenerational Neighborhood (TIIN) Model being created at Hope & A Future. The first phase of development is already more successful than we had hoped!

Before COVID-19, 50% of American's were reporting painful loneliness. Across income levels, adults and children are suffering the negative effects of loneliness on their mental and physical health. For many, social distancing is everyday life. The TIIN is a holistic, goal directed intervention that utilizes the support of--each other!

The TIIN Model addresses:

- Intergenerational Loneliness
- Caregiver workforce crisis
- Generational poverty
- Disparities in diverse communities
- The desire to age in community

The Complete TIIN includes:

- Green living
- Gardening and chickens

- Arts & Educational opportunities
- Neighborhood Time Bank--encouraging bartering and social connections
- Adult/Child Day Care & afterschool programs with intergenerational activities
- Onsite jobs--some offering room and board
- Life skills coaching
- Mentoring
- Intentionally Inclusive Living
- Assisted Living with live in staff (12 people)
- Volunteerism
- Housing for Older Adults (10 units--up to 36 people)
- Affordable Housing for families with children under 9 years at move in (up to 16 people)

Your timely donation will help us build accessible walking paths to gardens and a badly needed staff housing suite!