



THE GREEN HOUSE PROJECT

Response to COVID-19 | May 21, 2020 |

www.thegreenhouseproject.org

MEANINGFUL LIFE

A **MEANINGFUL LIFE** is determined by each person. Choice, control, autonomy, a focus on retained abilities and purposeful living in a real home environment in which one is deeply known and loved creates meaning. All team members are committed to provide a life rich in meaning and purpose through an individualized approach to care. There is no one size fits all for care or daily rhythm. **ALL** Elders are honored and celebrated for who they are.



CORE VALUES

The Green House model is based on three core values and associated

essential practices.

Meaningful Life – a focus on relationship-rich, elder-directed living; elders have autonomy and control over the rhythms of the day.

Empowered Staff – a fully empowered workforce of high performing teams in a coaching culture. Radical redesign of the traditional hierarchical system.

Real Home – the built environment creates intentional communities of belonging, leverages the power of normal and removes institutional artifacts.

THREE TAKEAWAYS

DEEP KNOWING

Knowing individuals beyond their care needs is a deeper level of knowing. It includes one's passions, interests, routines, what gives purpose and meaning, and how one typically responds in different circumstances. It is possible with dedicated, consistent staff creating connections with Elders.

ACCESS TO OUTDOORS

No one is meant to live 24/7 in a small, confined space such as one's bedroom. Elders deserve easy access to outdoors. Using appropriate precautions Elders can be assisted to a porch, patio, or go on a walk with staff.

YES, AND...

A pillar of improv, the “yes, and” philosophy builds on the reality with a forward, proactive approach. In a COVID era we can say yes to meeting onerous regulations AND lead with person-centered approaches.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. WHERE ARE WE ON THE CONTINUUM OF OVERMEDICALIZING VERSUS INDIVIDUALIZING OUR ENVIRONMENT/APPROACH? IN A COVID ERA HOW CAN WE PUSH TO BALANCE INFECTION CONTROL/QUALITY OF LIFE/WELLBEING/ELDER CHOICE?
2. HOW WOULD WE ASSESS MEANINGFUL LIFE IN OUR CARE COMMUNITY? WHAT ARE THE SYSTEMS WE CAN USE TO GET TO DEEPLY KNOW ELDERS AND WHAT CAN WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION WE LEARN ABOUT ELDERS?
3. HOW MIGHT WE MAKE AN ELDER ADMISSION A LESS INSTITUTIONALIZED & MORE INDIVIDUALIZED, WELCOMING PROCESS?

TAKE ACTION

1. Take a YES, AND... approach to 6-foot distancing as you evaluate what you CAN do when it comes to mealtime and convivium, meaningful engagements, connections. Stretch beyond the institutionalized approach.
2. Leverage the “little things” that matter. Particularly in supporting Elders living with dementia, evaluate body language, your own stress levels, communication techniques, asking permission and talking through tasks.
3. Decide to get every Elder who wants to, OUTSIDE. Make it a regular part of the Elders' routines.



With more than 16 years of collective experience, wisdom, and evidence base behind the Green House model, we offer the following services:

- The [Green House model](#) of nursing homes and assisted living. Known as the concept that spurred the small-house movement, Green House homes exceed financial proformas, bring higher occupancy rates, and produce excellent quality of life and quality of care outcomes. The model is rooted in our core values of Real Home, Meaningful Life, and Empowered Staff.
- [Cultural Transformation](#) for traditional providers that may not have the land or capital to build new “bricks and mortar.” Designed to help you achieve a truly person-directed, relationship-rich environment that infuses the entire organization with optimal systems and structural changes, Cultural Transformation offers a cohesive approach to transforming your culture.
- [Best Life](#), a leading-edge dementia care approach that empowers organizations to support people living with dementia (PLWD) to live rich and rewarding lives. Available to memory care, assisted living, and nursing home communities as a standalone education and training approach, Best Life focuses on the accomplishments of PLWD (as opposed to their losses) thus enabling them to thrive beyond their diagnoses.

If you would like more information on how The Green House Project can help your organization utilize the Green House philosophy and approach in a COVID-era and beyond, contact inquiries@thegreenhouseproject.org and a member of the project management team will be in touch with you.

[Register now to join us for the complete Elevate – Rise Above the Chaos series.](#)