National Study Preparations Continue

Preparations continue for the upcoming national research study to examine the effectiveness of SAIDO Learning on psychological symptoms such as depressed mood and apathy, as well as cognitive and physical functioning in persons living with mild to moderate dementia who are residents of an assisted living or long-term care community. The study will engage Eliza Jennings’ Devon Oaks assisted living community and eight other aging services organizations throughout the United States.* The efficacy of two cognitive rehabilitation therapies will be studied: the intervention group will participate in SAIDO Learning, and the control group will participate in a Language & Social Stimulation activity.

FDA regulations require that clinical trials involving human subjects are reviewed by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). An IRB application has been completed, and is pending approval by the Cleveland Clinic prior to the launch of the trial. A neuropsychiatrist from the University of Boston whose focus is Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias has been engaged to ensure the integrity of the socialization activity designed for the control group subjects.

Although this process has taken longer than originally anticipated, we have been supported in this effort by our Principal Investigators - Dr. Michael Felver, Medical Director for the Cleveland Clinic Center for Rehabilitation, and Dr. Patricia Higgins, Associate Professor and Researcher from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. The fundamental goal of SAIDO Learning is to enhance quality of life for older adults living with dementia while reducing their level of care and subsequent costs of care.

The national study should demonstrate that SAIDO Learning is an effective cognitive rehabilitation therapy, paving the way for future government reimbursement. This would expand the availability of SAIDO Learning to all older adults impacted by this debilitating disease.

*Intervention group sites:
Devon Oaks, Eliza Jennings, Westlake, OH; Deupree Cottages, Episcopal Retirement Services, Cincinnati, OH; Covenant Village of Golden Valley, Covenant Retirement Communities, Minneapolis, MN; Meridian Village, Lutheran Senior Services, Glen Carbon, IL; Good Shepherd Home, Fostoria, OH.

Control group sites:
Village of Sprenkle Drive, York, PA; Easton Home, Presbyterian Senior Living, Easton, PA; Laurel Lake, Hudson, OH; Canal Fulton, OH.
SAIDO Learning Across the Nation

Eliza Jennings has partnered with 18 aging services organizations in 11 states. There are currently almost 200 Learners, 700 Supporters, and 90 Lead Supporters participating in SAIDO Learning among our partner communities nationwide.

The number of older adults enjoying improved quality of life is growing! Since the first community outside of Eliza Jennings launched in February 2014, nearly 400 Learners have participated in SAIDO Learning and almost 900 Supporters have been trained.

SAIDO Learning Anniversaries

The following communities recently celebrated one-year SAIDO Learning anniversaries:

- Good Shepherd Home in Fostoria, Ohio - February
- Mount Miguel Covenant Village in San Diego - April
- Covenant Village of Cromwell, Connecticut - May
- Covenant Village of Golden Valley, Minnesota - May
- Deupree Cottages, an Episcopal Retirement Services community in Cincinnati - June

The Holmstad, a Covenant Retirement Community in Chicago, Illinois, celebrated their six-month anniversary in April.

Congratulations to all!

Learners and Supporters at Eliza Jennings

There are currently 16 Lead Supporters and 370 Supporters providing SAIDO Learning to nearly 81 Learners throughout Eliza Jennings' communities. To date, Eliza Jennings has provided SAIDO Learning to 258 Learners.

Outpatient SAIDO Learning Now Offered at Devon Oaks

In an effort to meet the needs of older adults who are living with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias, and continue to live in their owns homes, Eliza Jennings now offers SAIDO Learning on an outpatient basis at Devon Oaks assisted living community in Westlake, Ohio. This extension of services to those in the community, which began in May, will help ensure that more older adults may benefit from the positive outcomes and enjoy a higher quality of life.

“The sessions make a huge difference. All the pistons are firing. He’s energized.”

-Daughter and son of a Learner