

# University of Southern Indiana Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program



## AIM Nursing Home Consortium Newsletter August-September 2026

### Upcoming Webinar

#### AIM Nursing Home Consortium Quarterly Webinar *Free Webinar with Continuing Education Credits!*

How can nursing homes partner with their communities to better support older adults? Join the AIM Nursing Home Consortium for a free educational webinar exploring the growing age-friendly and dementia-friendly movements.

Hear from experts in Age-Friendly Communities, Dementia-Friendly Communities, and Age-Friendly Health Systems as they discuss real-world strategies for creating environments where older adults can thrive. Learn how these initiatives align with person-centered care, community engagement, and quality improvement efforts in long-term care settings.

- **Topic:** Age- and Dementia-Friendly Communities
- **When?** October 21, 2026, 1 - 2:30 p.m. CT
- **Where?** [Zoom](#)
- **Featured speakers:**
  - Erin Davis, MPH ([SWIRCA & More](#))
  - Logan Jenkins ([Circular](#))
  - Amanda Oporta ([Dementia Friendly Indiana](#))
  - Dr. Joseph Martz ([Deaconess Clinic](#))

Free continuing education credits available.

Register today and discover ways your organization can help advance age- and dementia-friendly care both inside and beyond your facility.

**Zoom Registration Required**

### Meet the Panelists!



**Erin Davis, MPH & Logan Jenkins**

*Presenting on Age-Friendly Communities*

Erin Davis, MPH ([SWIRCA & More](#)) and Logan Jenkins ([Circular](#)) are helping lead the Age-Friendly Evansville-Vanderburgh County initiative. Together, they bring expertise in aging services, community development, innovation, and cross-sector collaboration.

They will discuss the Age-Friendly Communities framework, the Eight Domains of Livability, and how communities can intentionally support people of all ages while promoting quality of life, dignity, and independence.



**Amanda Oporta, SSD, CDP, CADDCT**

*Presenting on Dementia-Friendly Communities*

Amanda Oporta is a leader with [Dementia Friendly Indiana](#), a statewide initiative focused on creating communities where people living with dementia and their care partners feel supported, included, and understood.

Amanda will share how dementia-friendly initiatives are transforming communities across Indiana and how organizations can take practical steps to better support those affected by dementia.



**Joseph Martz, DO, CPAFH**

*Presenting on Age-Friendly Health Systems*

Dr. Joseph Martz is a geriatrician with [Deaconess Clinic](#), an advocate for Age-Friendly Health Systems, and a Certified Professional in Age-Friendly Healthcare (CPAFH). This credential recognizes expertise in applying the evidence-based 4Ms Framework to provide safe, person-centered care that aligns with what matters most to older adults.

Dr. Martz will discuss the 4Ms Framework (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility) and how age-friendly healthcare practices can improve outcomes and quality of life for older adults across care settings.

## Scholarly Article

### Physical Activity in Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: A Scoping Review with Recommendations to Support Policy and Practice

A recent review examined how Age-Friendly Cities and Communities can support physical activity among older adults. Researchers found that features such as accessible transportation, safe walking spaces, social programs, and inclusive community design can help older adults remain active, connected, and independent. The findings reinforce the importance of age-friendly initiatives and cross-sector partnerships in promoting healthy aging and quality of life for people of all ages.

Jackman, P. C., Dargue-Fox, E. J., Hawkins, R. M., Murphy, N., Clarke, M., Swann, C., & Ray, M. (2025). Physical activity in age-friendly cities and communities: a scoping review with recommendations to support policy and practice. *BMC public health*, 25(1), 4107. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-25108-7>

[Read the Article](#)

# Upcoming USI Opportunities



## Confronting Ageism and Advancing Age-Friendly Nutrition Care Training Opportunity

The AIM Nursing Home Consortium is pleased to offer up to 50 sponsored registrations for the upcoming webinar: "Rewriting the Recipe: Confronting Ageism and Advancing Age-Friendly Nutrition Care"

**Tuesday, November 10  
2 - 3:15 p.m. ET**

As the older adult population continues to grow, health care teams must evolve to meet increasingly complex needs. This webinar, presented by Jocelyn Protopappas, MSW, MPH, RDN, CDCES, examines how ageism impacts care and introduces the Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms Framework: Mentation, Mobility, Medications, and What Matters.

Through practical examples from clinical and community settings, participants will learn strategies to:

- Recognize and address age-related bias
- Incorporate age-friendly principles into nutrition care
- Assess social drivers of health
- Strengthen client engagement and autonomy
- Enhance interdisciplinary collaboration

This training may be of particular interest to nursing home dietitians, dietary managers, nutrition professionals, and interdisciplinary team members serving older adults. Registration for the webinar includes available continuing education credits offered through the event provider. Sponsored registrations are being provided by the USI GWEP to support workforce development in aging services.

Interested in receiving one of the sponsored registrations? Contact the GWEP at [gamoney@usi.edu](mailto:gamoney@usi.edu) to express interest. Space is limited and registrations will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

*CE credits made possible with the support of the USI GWEP, funded by the Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness.*

## USI On-Demand Continuing Education Opportunities

*Earn CE Credits on Your Schedule*



Looking for flexible professional development opportunities? The USI Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning (CHPLL) offers a growing library of on-demand continuing education programs designed to fit busy schedules. Topics include clinical care, pharmacology, mental health, health misinformation, diagnostic skills, and more. These self-paced educational offerings allow healthcare professionals to learn when and where it is most convenient for them.

The AIM Nursing Home Consortium is made possible through the [USI GWEP](#). Continuing education credits are provided by the [USI Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning](#) (CHPLL) - funded by the [Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness](#). The USI CHPLL team is approved to offer continuing education (CE) for nurses, physicians, pharmacists, social workers, dental professionals, occupational therapists, occupational therapist assistants, psychologists, and health facility administrators.

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## On-Demand CE Opportunities

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**RESEARCH STUDY**  
**Community-Based Health**  
**Management & Well-being for**  
**Older Adults (50 y.o.+)**

You are invited to participate in a survey questionnaire to explore adult preferences for weight & health management and current well-being.

Your participation is completely voluntary. You will not provide any identifying information. A potential benefit of this study is the opportunity to reflect upon your current health practices, habits, preferences, and motivations. No compensation will be provided.

For the invitation to participate in the anonymous survey:

Questions? Contact:

Dr. Michele Chaleunphonh, OTR/L  
[mchaleunph@usi.edu](mailto:mchaleunph@usi.edu) or 812-492-7818





## Research Opportunity for Adults Age 50+ *Help Shape the Future of Healthy Aging*

Researchers at the University of Southern Indiana are seeking adults age 50 and older to participate in a research study examining health management preferences and how those preferences relate to overall well-being.

The study, led by Michele Chaleunphonh, OTD, OTR/L, aims to better understand the experiences, needs, and preferences of older adults. Participation is voluntary and anonymous.

We encourage nursing homes, senior centers, community organizations, and healthcare providers to share this opportunity with older adults who may be interested in contributing to research that can help inform future healthcare programs, services, and policies.

**Who can participate?** Adults age 50 and older

**What is involved?** Completion of a voluntary, anonymous survey

**Study deadline:** October 31, 2026

Your participation can help researchers better understand healthy aging and support the development of programs and services that reflect the needs and preferences of older adults.

[Learn more and access the survey](#)  
[Informed Consent](#)

Questions? Contact Dr. Michele Chaleunphonh, OTD, OTR/L at [mchaleunph@usi.edu](mailto:mchaleunph@usi.edu).

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## More Information

# Other Opportunities and Resources



## Age-Friendly Evansville-Vanderburgh County Community-Wide Initiative

Community leaders recently gathered to advance the Age-Friendly Evansville-Vanderburgh County initiative, a collaborative effort led by Erin Davis and SWIRCA & More. The initiative seeks to make the community more livable for people of all ages by focusing on areas such as housing, transportation, health services, social participation, and community engagement.

The [USI Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions](#) is proud to serve on the steering committee alongside partners from organizations

including AARP Indiana, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, United Way, Good Samaritan Charitable Foundation, City of Evansville, and others. They Kinney College has representatives from the [Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning](#), the [Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness](#) and the [USI GWEP](#).

The group highlighted many age-friendly initiatives already underway locally, including free public transportation for adults 65+, caregiver and dementia support programs, Age-Friendly Health Systems efforts, home-delivered meals, accessible housing initiatives, and community education programs. Future efforts will focus on expanding and strengthening these resources to help residents thrive at every stage of life.

Those interested in learning more about the Age-Friendly Evansville-Vanderburgh County initiative or becoming involved are encouraged to reach out to Erin Davis at SWIRCA & More at [edavis@swirca.org](mailto:edavis@swirca.org).

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## Celebrating "INnovations" in Aging Conference *Educational and Networking Opportunity*

Registration is now open for the Second Annual Celebrating INnovations in Aging Conference, hosted by the Indiana Bureau of Better Aging. The conference will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026, at the Indiana Government Center South in Indianapolis.



This educational and networking event brings together professionals, advocates, caregivers, healthcare providers, and organizations committed to improving the lives of older adults.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about innovative aging-related programs and initiatives through expert-led presentations, breakout sessions, and poster presentations showcasing impactful work from across Indiana. The conference's keynote speaker is Robert L. Russell, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer at Majestic Care.

Interested in sharing your work? Conference organizers are also accepting poster presentation submissions, offering an additional opportunity to network and highlight innovative programs, research, and community initiatives related to aging.

Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

For questions, contact [agingconference@fssa.in.gov](mailto:agingconference@fssa.in.gov).



## Dementia Friendly Indiana *Updates*

[Dementia Friendly Indiana](#) continues to expand its impact across the state through community education, awareness, and partnership-building efforts.

**Pike County:** Dementia Friendly Pike County recently hosted its Paint Pike County Purple event at a local assisted living community. Participants painted purple rocks featuring QR codes that link directly to local dementia resources. The initiative was well received and the rocks were distributed throughout the county on September 18 to increase dementia awareness. Regular action team meetings will resume in October. Additionally, Brenda Hancock and another Generations staff member recently completed [TimeSlips®](#) Facilitator Training and plans to introduce the program throughout the service area.

**Knox County:** Knox County continues to build momentum under strong local leadership. One action team member living with dementia has played an important role in strengthening relationships with local hospitals and healthcare providers. The action team has completed its program summary and is currently securing letters of support as it works toward Dementia Friendly America recognition. Several team members are also interested in becoming Dementia Aware Organization trainers.

**Hamilton County:** Dementia-friendly initiatives remain active throughout Hamilton County, including a strong network of Memory Cafés in Westfield. Local leaders are working to combine the Westfield and Hamilton County groups into a single, stronger organization to enhance coordination and community impact. Efforts continue to engage businesses and organizations in becoming more dementia aware, including partnerships with local law enforcement agencies.

**Boone County:** A Living Well with Dementia educational program is scheduled for November, providing information, resources, and support for individuals living with dementia and their care partners.

**Marion County:** A Living Well with Dementia event was held in September, bringing together community members, caregivers, and professionals to learn more about living well after a dementia diagnosis.

**Union County:** High school students in grades 9-12 continue to participate in dementia education initiatives, helping build awareness and understanding of dementia among younger generations. Local leaders are also exploring new approaches to support groups as they work to increase participation and engagement.

**Wayne County:** Through a partnership with Reid Health, Dementia Friends Indiana education and Dementia Live® simulations have been successfully integrated into a clinical nursing cohort, helping

- General Caregiver Support Group (for non-dementia-related conditions): Second Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. CT.
- Dementia Caregiver Support Group: Last Monday of each month at 2 p.m. CT.
- Virtual Caregiver Support Group: Third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. CT.

We encourage caregivers to take advantage of these supportive resources.

### **Additional Dementia Resources**

SWIRCA & More hosts [Dementia Friends Indiana](#) educational sessions on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. (unless it falls on a holiday). This free educational session is open to the public and helps participants better understand dementia and ways to support those living with it.

SWIRCA & More also offers a [Memory Café](#) and a [Living with Dementia Support Group](#) for individuals living with dementia and their care partners.

For more information about any of these programs, contact Linda Wright at 812-492-7443 or [lwright@swirca.org](mailto:lwright@swirca.org).

### **Grand Opening of SWIRCA's Expanded Facility**

SWIRCA & More recently celebrated the grand opening of its newly expanded and renovated facility. Community members, supporters, and community partners attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony and toured the new space.

One exciting addition is [Oma's Comfort Café](#), a restaurant open to the public Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Named after the German word for "grandmother," the café serves breakfast and lunch while helping support SWIRCA's Meals on Wheels program. SWIRCA currently provides an average of 500 meals each day through 16 congregate meal sites and 9 Meals on Wheels routes.

In addition to nutrition services, SWIRCA offers an activities center, case management services, caregiver resources, support groups, personal training opportunities, and Tech Tuesday, a weekly program that helps older adults learn to use technology such as smartphones, email, apps, smart TVs, and other digital tools.

Annual membership is available through an optional \$30 donation, with scholarships and financial assistance available for those who qualify.

Learn more about the services they offer [on their website](#).



Adult Children of Aging Parents®

**Adult Children of Aging  
Parents (ACAP)**

*Education and Support for  
Family Caregivers*

Adult Children of Aging Parents (ACAP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting family caregivers through evidence-based education, practical resources, and community connections. Recently featured at the Indiana Commission on Aging, ACAP offers local chapters, educational



programs, a podcast, and a growing library of caregiver resources designed to address the wide range of challenges families face while caring for aging loved ones.

Unlike programs focused solely on dementia, ACAP covers a variety of caregiving topics, including dementia care, housing and residential options, legal and financial planning, caregiver well-being, and navigating community resources. Educational sessions typically feature an expert presentation followed by opportunities for participants to ask questions and engage in discussion.

ACAP currently offers in-person chapter meetings and is expanding access through online programming. To learn more about available resources, start a local chapter, or explore upcoming educational opportunities, [visit their website](#).

## Recent Events

### A Matter of Balance Coach Training

*Building Capacity for Fall Prevention*

8/12/2026

[Generations Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disability](#), in partnership with the USI GWEP, recently hosted an [A Matter of Balance](#) Coach Training. Participants learned how to facilitate this nationally recognized evidence-based fall prevention program, which helps older adults reduce fear of falling, increase confidence, and maintain active lifestyles.

Through interactive training, future coaches gained the skills needed to lead group sessions focused on fall risk reduction, home safety, physical activity, and strategies for remaining independent. The training expands the number of local professionals equipped to deliver this valuable program throughout the region.

To learn more about how to become A Matter of Balance Coach, please contact Alma Kramer at [akramer@vinu.edu](mailto:akramer@vinu.edu).



### MAIA Watch Party

*Expanding Access to Aging and Dementia Education*

8/6/2026, 8/7/2026

On August 6 and 7, the USI GWEP partnered with the [USI Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning](#) to offer a MAIA Watch Party option for organizations unable to attend the [Mid-America Institute on Aging & Wellness \(MAIA\) Conference](#) in person. Participating organizations gathered staff and residents to view keynote presentations on topics including dementia care, creativity in caregiving, elder abuse prevention, and living well with Alzheimer's disease. This initiative extended the reach of high-quality aging education and provided opportunities for learning and discussion within healthcare and community organizations.

### Matthew 25 Quarterly Meeting

*GWEP Overview and Dementia Care In-Service*

8/12/2026

The USI GWEP recently participated in the [Matthew 25](#) Quarterly HIV & Aging Meeting, where attendees learned more about the GWEP's mission to improve age-friendly and dementia-friendly care across southern Indiana.

During the meeting, participants also received an introduction to [Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care®](#) philosophy, including practical communication and caregiving strategies that support individuals living with dementia. The session provided an opportunity to build community partnerships while sharing evidence-based dementia care resources with professionals serving older adults.

Looking to connect with others in the aging industry? Join Matthew 25 for a quarterly HIV and Aging group for networking, updates, and learning more about what resources are available in the area. Each meeting will have a new guest speaker.

Below is the date for this year's last HIV and Aging meeting:

- November 4

The meeting is from 2 - 3:30 p.m. CT at Matthew 25's clinic at 101 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Evansville, IN 47708, suite 215. They are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building.



## Classroom Simulations *Building Empathy*

9/1/2026, 9/22/2026, 9/25/2026, 9/30/2026

USI faculty from nursing, gerontology, and health administration recently incorporated multiple aging-related simulations into their courses. Students participated in both [Dementia Live®](#) and hands-on [geriatric simulation activities](#) that replicate common age-related sensory, mobility, and cognitive changes. By

experiencing these challenges firsthand, students gained a deeper understanding of the physical and emotional barriers many older adults face. These experiential learning opportunities help prepare future health professionals to deliver compassionate, person-centered care to older adults and individuals living with dementia. The USI GWEP is grateful to faculty like Dr. Jennifer Vines, Dr. Jasmine Vickers, and Dr. Kevin Valadares that utilize these simulations in their classrooms to help educate the next generation of healthcare professionals.

## TimeSlips Certification Training *Harnessing Creativity to Foster Connection*

9/10/2026

With support from the [Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness](#), professionals from across the community recently completed [TimeSlips Creative Storytelling](#) Certification Training at [EVPL](#) Central.



TimeSlips is an internationally recognized creative engagement approach that encourages storytelling and meaningful social interaction among older adults, including those living with

dementia. Participants learned techniques for facilitating imaginative storytelling experiences that emphasize strengths, creativity, and connection rather than memory loss, equipping them to bring enriching programming back to their organizations.

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## **Minka Learning Lab for Living Well** *Tours, Technology Demonstrations, and Simulations*

8/26/2026, 9/11/2026, 9/18/2026

The [Minka Learning Lab for Living Well](#) recently welcomed several groups for tours, technology demonstrations, and aging-related simulations.

On August 26, [Matthew 25](#) case managers explored technologies and home design features that support independence and aging in place. On September 11, health informatics professionals visited the Minka to learn about innovative approaches to supporting older adults through technology. On September 18, students enrolled in a Health Informatics and Information Management Systems (HIIMS) AI and Innovation course participated in an interactive learning experience focused on smart home technologies, aging-related challenges, and the future of technology-enabled care. Both of these events were initiated by USI HIIMS faculty member Dr. Jennifer Skelton.

These visits continue to showcase how thoughtful design and innovation can help older adults live safely and independently in their homes.

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## **Dementia Friends Indiana** *Building Dementia Awareness in the Community*

9/23/2026

After learning about the opportunity through the USI GWEP, [SolarBron Independent Living](#) hosted a [Dementia Friends Indiana](#) educational session for community members.

A certified Dementia Friends Champion from SWIRCA & More led the session, helping participants better understand dementia and learn practical ways to support individuals living with the condition.

Educational opportunities such as these help build more dementia-friendly communities by increasing awareness, reducing stigma, and empowering individuals to make a positive difference in the lives of people living with dementia and their care partners.



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## **What is the AIM Nursing Home Consortium?**

### **Join the USI GWEP AIM Nursing Home Consortium!**

The [USI Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program \(GWEP\)](#) has established a [nursing home consortium, AIM \(Advance, Improve, Move\)](#), designed to support nursing home leaders with education and innovative opportunities to grow age- and dementia-friendly care.

## How to Join?

Become an AIM Nursing Home Consortium member by attending one of our quarterly webinars or [opting in to one or more of our initiatives.](#)

## Quarterly Educational Meetings

Quarterly meetings featuring national and regional experts will be hosted on Zoom, with **free continuing education credits** offered at each webinar.

*The AIM Nursing Home Consortium is made possible through the USI GWEP. Continuing education credits are provided by the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning - funded by the Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness.*



For additional information or any inquiries regarding the AIM Nursing Home Consortium, please contact Gracie Money, the USI GWEP Program Manager.

gamoney@usi.edu

812-464-1894

Health Professions Center, 3092

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