



THE GREEN HOUSE PROJECT

Response to COVID-19 | May 7, 2020 |
www.thegreenhouseproject.org

REAL HOME

Creating intentional communities of belonging in which elders, staff, and family members are deeply known is the goal of REAL HOME. The built environment supports connections, identity, autonomy, and leverages the power of normal. In a Real Home members of that community are interconnected and interdependent. This is not a merely a “facility” in which medical care is given; it is a vibrant care community.



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

PHYSICAL DESIGN MATTERS

Private rooms & private bathrooms help mitigate infections far better than semi-private spaces and provides dignity and respect to the elders. A REAL HOME environment is more comforting and feels less confining in a time of COVID-19.

REFORM NURSING HOME FUNDING AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

We cannot “punish our way to excellence”. Elders deserve freedom and choice including access to outdoors. Current system creates fear in providers which limits choice. Medicaid reform is necessary to see caregiving as a vocation and provide a living wage. Now is the time to reach out to local legislators.

TREND DOWN MEDICATION LISTS

Evaluate medication lists. The goal is to cut med pass in ½, by pushing out vitamins, supplements, statins, ointments, etc.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. HOW HAVE WE ALLOWED FEAR TO GUIDE OUR ACTIONS? HOW MIGHT WE MAKE A SHIFT?
2. HOW ARE WE BEING PRESENT IN THE MOMENT TO EXPERIENCE THE BLESSING OF THE MOMENT? DON'T LET A COMPLIMENT GO UNSPOKEN.
3. HOW CAN WE BE MORE MINDFUL OF PHYSICAL SPACES AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLACE & SPACE HAVE FOR ELDER WELLBEING? HOW HAVE WE BECOME OVERMEDICALIZED? HOW CAN WE BRING REAL HOME INTO THE CARE COMMUNITY?

TAKE ACTION

1. Evaluate what kind of a difference you are making. Your behavior sets an example for others to follow. Model the way. Live out your actions (ex: handwashing, cleaning practices) in front of others. You show you care for them by doing so.
2. Evaluate your advanced care planning discussions with elders and families. In a COVID-era, this is a different discussion. Determine what changes need to be made to assist good decision making. Start having conversations NOW.
3. Educate staff on proper reuse of PPE. Use resources from CDC. Assign someone to monitor safe practices.



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.](#)