



PROJECT HELLO

Helping Elders Lessen Loneliness Outreach

RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF
HealthyAging

BACKGROUND

4 out of 10 Rhode Islanders age 65 and over live alone. Many are isolated and may lack support from family, friends or neighbors. Maintaining connection with them during this time of crisis is critical

GOAL

“Telebuddy” program to connect Isolated RI Older Adults to their Community during COVID19 crisis with plans to sustain program on ongoing basis



VOLUNTEER RECRUITEMENT

Easily Identified Vetted Sources

- SHIP/SMP/Sr. Companions
- CHWorkers
- RSVP
- Friendly Visitors
- Senior Centers/Programs
- Village Common volunteers
- Licensed Personnel (ex. social workers, nurses)
- National Service Corps (ex, Foster Grandparents)
- HEZ programs
- Interested General public
- Other groups (ex. AARP)
- Volunteers are matched within their communities



OUTREACH TO ISOLATED ELDERLY

“GETTING THE WORD OUT”

- OHA – FLYER
- OHA – PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Potential sources

- Census Workers
- United Way
- Faith-Based Communities
- Municipal Communications
- General Assembly messages
- Healthcare Providers
- Housing Managers/ Resident
- Service staff
- Census Outreach
- Next Door groups

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Calling to say *HELLO*



Maureen Maigret, former director of the Department of Elderly Affairs, now called the Office of Healthy Aging, sits at an outdoor table at her home. Behind her is Rosamaria Amoros Jones, the current director of the agency. Maigret developed Project HELLO, a program that helps elders remain socially engaged even though they have to be physically isolated. [THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL PHOTOS / SANDOR BODO]

At Project HELLO, volunteers are connected with elders



The Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging is committed to helping older adults stay healthy, safe and connected to their communities. In the wake of COVID-19 we have developed Project HELLO, a volunteer effort to connect older adults who may be alone, and in need of socialization more than ever before. If you are an older adult who would like to receive calls from a Project HELLO volunteer, please contact the **POINT**, our Healthy Aging help desk, **at 462-4444**. They welcome your call and our volunteers are ready to call you to say "Hello!" Our volunteers are equipped to provide you with information about resources which can help you meet your needs. And they will never ask you for any personal information

La Oficina de Envejecimiento Saludable de Rhode Island se compromete a ayudar a los adultos mayores a mantenerse sanos, seguros y conectados con sus comunidades. A raíz de COVID-19 hemos desarrollado el Proyecto HELLO, un esfuerzo voluntario para conectar a los adultos mayores que pueden estar solos, y necesitados de socialización más que nunca. Si usted es un adulto mayor que desea recibir llamadas de un voluntario de Project HELLO, comuníquese con el **POINT**, nuestro servicio de ayuda para el envejecimiento saludable, **al 462-4444**. Le dan la bienvenida a su llamada y nuestros voluntarios están listos para llamarlo para decir "¡Hola!" Nuestros voluntarios están equipados para proporcionarle información sobre los recursos que pueden ayudarle a satisfacer sus necesidades. Y nunca te pedirán ninguna información personal.

PROJECT HELLO

PHASE 1- TELE-FRIEND



OBJECTIVE:

Maintain contact via telephone with identified, socially isolated community-dwelling older adults:

- Maintain older adult's contact with caring "neighbor" to reduce feelings of isolation and invisibility
- Help address any outstanding immediate needs and help problem solve them through appropriate resource referrals
- SMP information to Educate Medicare Beneficiaries on Medicare/Covid Scams

PROJECT HELLO

PHASE II

- Today we live in a digital world: from how we shop, work and bank to how we socialize. It's all one click away, if you're "connected." At least one quarter of older Rhode Islanders aren't, so we started the [digiAGE collaborative](#).
- Through a partnership of industry, government, and community, digiAGE aims to bridge this digital divide for older adults, linking them to the technology and virtual opportunities that underpin modern life and help keep us all, ya know, connected.



digiAGE Objective

- As an ongoing program for those unable to physically get to senior center/resource programs/activities due to impairments, transportation or other challenges.
- Educate seniors to use technology (tablets, android phones, laptops, etc)
(Students teach the technology to the Seniors so they can interact via the internet and possibly have these Seniors train other Seniors in the future)
- Those unable to attend senior center programs during the COVID-19 crisis
- Offer senior center type activities amendable to TV broadcast or remote internet technology (*pilot program in process*)

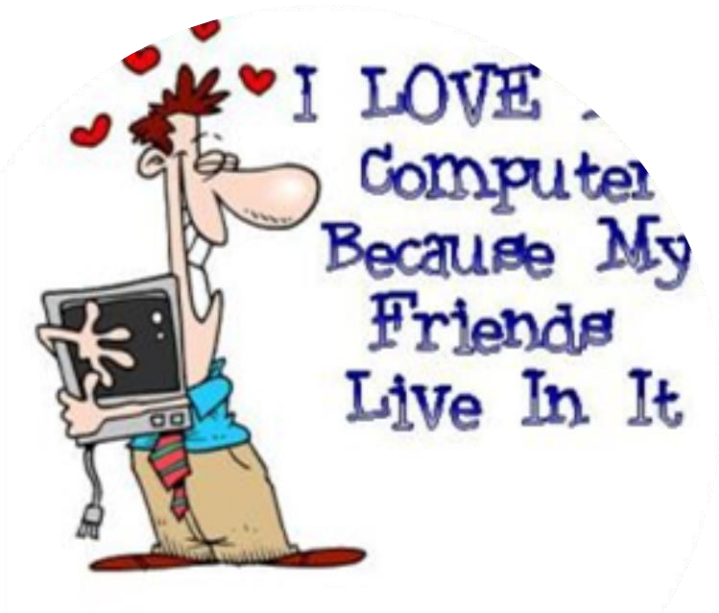
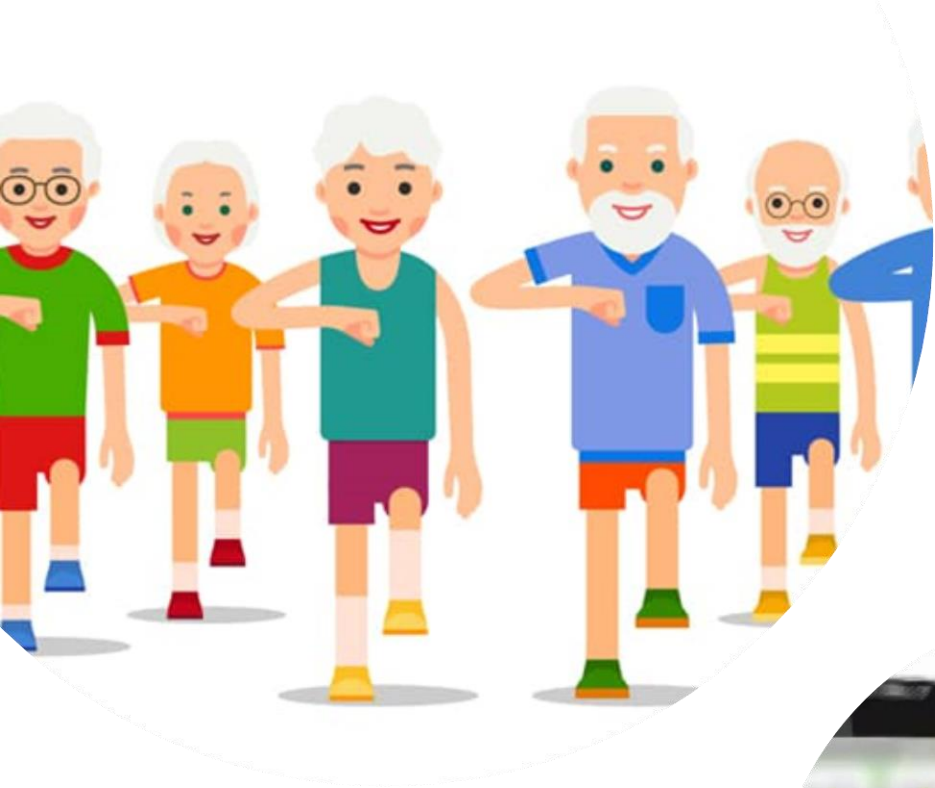
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CENTER LINKS

<https://www.warwickri.gov/PilgrimVirtual> [warwickri.gov] - WARWICK

<https://www.facebook.com/hollyogawithstacey/> [facebook.com] - PAWTUCKET

<https://seniorplanet.org/get-involved/online/> [seniorplanet.org]– AGE FRIENDLY RI

For more information on digiAGE please see link on next page



QUESTIONS?

Contacts:

The Point 401-462-4444

RI Office of Healthy Aging
401-462-0194
Michelle Boudreau

[Need More Information, visit the following links:](#)

<https://oha.ri.gov/get-involved/volunteer>

<https://oha.ri.gov/digiAGE>