

News from COLLAGE, The Art and Science of Healthy Aging®

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National Church Residences Expands COLLAGE to 21 Affordable Housing Residences and 4 Adult Day Health Centers in Central Ohio

National Church Residences (NCR) with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, has signed an agreement with COLLAGE, The Art and Science of Aging® to expand the program to hundreds of additional older adults in central Ohio starting in February, 2009. It will bring the number of NCR communities participating in COLLAGE to 55.

"COLLAGE is helping us develop a stronger infrastructure for the delivery of high quality health and wellness initiatives and services to our residents living in affordable housing," said Kathy Locke, Vice President of Clinical Services. "As we continue to build our network of programs and services to assist our seniors with aging in place, the COLLAGE assessment is providing us with the information we need to make targeted and appropriate program referrals. We're excited about expanding COLLAGE to more communities within our ministry."

COLLAGE is a national consortium of aging services organizations. The consortium now includes over 90 communities in 15 states and is led by Kendal Outreach, LLC (kendaloutreach.org), an affiliate of The Kendal Corporation based in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and the Institute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife (hebrewseniorlife.org) in Boston; both are not-for-profit organizations. The COLLAGE membership alliance includes continuing care, at-home, community-based, home care, adult day and housing residences dedicated to improving the lives, well-being and health of their clients. The program provides its members with a standardized and integrated health and wellness assessment information system to advance and promote healthier aging.

The COLLAGE assessment instrument was developed by *interRAI*, a network of researchers, policymakers and clinicians in over 30 countries committed to improving health care for older people. *InterRAI* promotes evidence-based practice and informed program development through the collection and interpretation of high quality data from scientifically derived, computerized assessment systems.

COLLAGE uses an integrated assessment information system to capture essential health and wellness information that can help older adults with limited resources to live and age in place more successfully in their own homes. Similarly, aging services organizations who offer affordable housing programs are looking for ways to understand the needs and living challenges of older adults; to organize and evaluate individual and aggregate healthy aging indices; to improve their management of risk; to more successfully link their clients to targeted community programs and services that facilitate independence; and to reduce the risk of premature institutionalization.

Up to now, a majority of COLLAGE members have used the program to improve health and wellness outcomes for independent older adults living in a continuing care setting. "We want to leverage the benefits and learning that COLLAGE has brought to improved healthy aging outcomes in the continuing care retirement community world to further benefit low to moderate income independent living older adults who typically have access to fewer resources," commented Beryl Goldman, Director of Kendal Outreach, LLC and COLLAGE. "NCR's commitment to their clients living in affordable housing and adult day health is exemplary and serves as a model for the field. We couldn't be more pleased with this new development."



COLLAGE, The Art and Science of Healthy Aging®

Standardized and integrated health and wellness assessment information for better outcomes. Advance healthy aging in your community. On the web at collageaging.org.