

NORTHLAND FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO AVINITY

Richfield, MN - (2.15.16) - Avinity Senior Living (“Avinity”) is the recipient of a grant from the Northland Foundation to enhance independent living opportunities for older adults in northern Minnesota through the use of technology.

Avinity has been awarded a one-year \$30,000 Northland Foundation grant for its *Age Well: Partners in Technology-Driven Support for At-Risk Older Adults* project at LEE Center in Hibbing. Northland Foundation, a regional foundation serving northeastern Minnesota communities, provides resources through its Grant Program to support social and economic justice in the region. This grant supplements previously awarded funds from the Minnesota Department of Human Services’ Live Well at Home grant program.

Through the *Age Well* project, Avinity is collaborating with The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) to develop robust educational and advocacy programming and is leveraging TLHA’s advanced expertise in health monitoring technology. Additionally, Avinity has partnered with the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging, to promote the project and advocate for sustainability with local organizations serving seniors, including St. Louis County caseworkers. Together, this partnership and grant funding will provide remote health and safety monitoring systems to current residents of LEE Center in Hibbing, a Section 202 HUD Housing, Avinity Independent Senior Living Community that serves seniors with qualifying incomes. The program targets residents who are at risk of needing to move from their homes to a higher, more costly level of care.

“We are grateful for the generosity and partnership of the Northland Foundation in helping Avinity provide the resources and technology to help older adults live safely and independently,” said Jennifer Zarth, Vice President of Philanthropy & Programming for Avinity and author of the grant proposal.

The implementation phase of the grant has kicked off with staff, caseworker, resident, and family educational sessions. Training and advocacy sessions will continue throughout the project as the technology is installed in the homes of LEE Center residents who opt-in for the program.

About Avinity Senior Living

Avinity, formerly Twin City Christian Homes, owns and manages senior living communities throughout the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota, including Buhl, Hermantown, Hibbing, Hoyt Lakes, McGregor, Park Rapids and Proctor. Avinity combines extensive management experience with a compassionate faith-based environment to create exceptional communities where aging is all about living well. Older adults can thrive in their social, spiritual and

personal lives, and their families can have peace of mind knowing their loved ones are safe, secure and well cared for.

About Northland Foundation

Created in 1986 by The McKnight Foundation, the Northland Foundation is a regional non-profit organization serving the communities of northeastern Minnesota. The Northland Foundation is dedicated to improving the region's economic vitality and social responsiveness through support for children, youth, families, older adults and small and medium-size businesses that create family-sustaining jobs. Resources for the Northland Foundation's diverse initiatives are provided through public and private partnerships at the local, state, and national levels. Visit www.northlandfdn.org for more information.

About The Lutheran Home Association

The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) is a not-for-profit ministry dedicated to providing for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of people in their care. TLHA offers a wide variety of health care, housing, technology strategies, dementia outreach, and spiritual outreach services with campuses in several states and congregational programs serving seniors and individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities nationwide. Services and programs include senior living, skilled nursing care, memory care, disability services, rehabilitative therapies, innovative technologies, spiritual services, property management, and educational outreach. Visit www.TLHA.org for more information.

About Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging

The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) is the designated area agency on aging for the seven county arrowhead region in northeastern Minnesota. Area agencies on aging were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) to respond to the needs of Americans aged 60 and over in every local community. There are over 629 area agencies on aging in the United States and seven in Minnesota. Minnesota area agencies on aging are designated by the Board of Aging to provide three critical functions: OAA funding administration, community planning and service development, and information and assistance. Visit www.ArrowheadAging.org for more information.

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