Archstone Foundation and
The Aging & Public Health Section of
The American Public Health Association
present the

2020
Award for Excellence in
Program Innovation

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Prior to their visit, patients complete a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment to evaluate social, medical, and oral health needs, which are part of a referral system to connect patients to other possible social or medical services. Dental Center staff take patient’s vitals and blood glucose levels at the beginning of each appointment and obtain medical clearances to ensure safe and effective treatment. Patients are educated on their treatment options prior to proceeding. Volunteer dental specialists provide on-site care one day per month for patients who are unable to afford specialty care off-site.

The SDC utilizes cutting-edge technology to better serve patients, including 3D imaging machines to accommodate patients in wheelchairs and a same-day crown machine. The American Dental Association’s Chairside app is utilized as an all-in-one mobile resource that includes dental images and animations to help patients understand the proposed treatment options.

To meet the diverse needs of the San Diego area, the SDC accommodates treatment in the patient’s native language by employing multi-lingual staff and coordinating telephonic interpretation.

The SDCs overall goal is to design a sustainable model for holistic patient-centered care, to be shared or replicated in California and across the county. Core programmatic elements of the SDC include:
1. Implementing whole-person oral healthcare that considers medical, social, and behavioral health needs and conditions;
2. Bringing oral healthcare to a trusted, well-attended community location; and
3. Engaging older adults in their own care through education, treatment planning, and delivery.

**OUTCOMES**

The Journal of the California Dental Association’s April 2019 issue documents an evaluation of the program, lessons learned, and considerations for how other providers can better care for older adults. An evaluation of the first cohort of SDC patients pre- and post-treatment revealed changes in the Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment, including:

- Absolute reduction in dental pain in 20% of patients;
- Sixty percent improvement in self-rated oral health;
- Eighteen percent improvement in chewing;
- Twenty-seven percent improvement in food limitation; and
- Significant (20%) overall improvement in general pain.

The SDC was selected as a 2020 rotation training site for New York University Langone’s Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program, and hosted two interns this past summer, which will allow SDC to sustain their work in providing necessary dental care to low-income older adults and to train providers in geriatric dentistry.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

In partnership with Serving Seniors’ Gary and Mary West Senior Wellness Center and Gary and Mary West PACE, the SDC has become part of a much-needed “one-stop shop” where the dental, health, and wellness needs of low-income older adults can be conveniently accessed in a trusted and well-attended community-based location. Initially, the SDC reached the 500 low-income older adults who visited the Senior Wellness Center for daily meals. In 2019 the SDC expanded to North County San Diego, where the dental clinic is co-located with the Gary and Mary West PACE.

The SDC also partners with the Dental Lifeline Network, a nonprofit dental organization that connects a volunteer network of dentists and dental labs to deliver dental services to patients with needs beyond the center’s capacity.

**DISSEMINATION**

The SDC has shared their model and initial findings through national media outlets and academic presentations around the country, underscoring the importance of creating access to dental services and integrating these services into typical healthcare services. In addition to publishing its results, the SDC proactively works to influence policy makers to increase dental benefits (both scope and rates) for older adults. The SDC plans to develop a toolkit to share with the broader community to encourage replication in other parts of the country. Patient education resources have also been placed online for home access during the COVID-19 pandemic. For patients who have completed their dental treatment, the SDC has established an Oral Health Peer Ambassador Program to engage older adults in promoting oral health among their friends and community.

By targeting older adults and providing whole-person care, the SDC is able to improve patients’ oral health and connect them with needed community-based services. Through oral health education and treatment, comprehensive assessment and referral, and integration across multiple organizations, the Senior Dental Center is “reconnecting” the mouth with the rest of the body and raising the status of this vital barometer of health.

To learn more, please contact:

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The Award for Excellence in Program Innovation was established by an endowment from Archstone Foundation, to the Aging & Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association, to recognize best practice models in caring for older adults. National programs that innovatively link academic theory with applied practice in the field of public health and aging are considered annually for this award. In the 20th century, public health led efforts to reduce the harms of communicable diseases produced fantastic gains in life expectancy. In the 21st century, as the aging of the population brings new challenges to the fore, such as cognitive impairment, multiple chronic illness, and functional impairment, we believe that public health again has an essential role to play. It is our hope that these model programs will be replicated and will continue to be evaluated in an effort to enhance services for older people throughout the United States.

To Irena Pesis-Katz, PhD, Chair of the Archstone Foundation Award Selection Committee, and the other members of the Selection Advisory Committee, we extend our deep appreciation for their efforts in reviewing the nominations and selecting the outstanding program to receive this year's award.

To the winner of the 2020 Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation, all the nominees, and to all who participated in the award process as applicants or reviewers, we offer our best wishes for continued success in their commitment to develop service models in the field of aging and public health.

Christopher A. Langston, PhD
President & Chief Executive Officer
Archstone Foundation

Carolyn Mendez-Luck, PhD, MPH
Chair, Aging & Public Health Section
American Public Health Association

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Adjunct Assistant Professor
University of Maryland Baltimore County

For a list of previous Award for Excellence in Program Innovation winners go to www.Archstone.org
### Past Award Winners

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Jewish Home Family’s Parkinson’s Center, Jewish Home Family</td>
<td>Rockleigh, New Jersey</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Prevention &amp; Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF), Massachusetts Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Support And Services at Home (SASH), Cathedral Square Corporation</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Student-Run Free Clinic Project Eldercare Program, University of California, San Diego</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Mobile Medicare Health Clinics, University of the Pacific</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Age-Friendly New York City, A Partnership between the Office of the Mayor, New York City Council, and New York Academy of Medicine</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Livable Community Initiative, City of Kingsport</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Healthy Steps in Silicon Valley, The Health Trust</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>PEARLS, University of Washington, Health Promotion Research Center</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Area Geriatric Education Scholars Program for Upper Peninsula Youth (AGES), Upper Peninsula Health Education Corporation</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>PREPARE: Disaster and Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Care, Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Guided Care: Improving Chronic Care for High Risk Seniors, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>The Dancing Heart Program, Kairos Dance Theatre</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Brain Get Your Mind Moving, New England Cognitive Center</td>
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<td>Legacy Corps for Health and Independent Living, University of Maryland, Center on Aging</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Dignified Transportation for Seniors, Independent Transportation Network</td>
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<td>Alzheimer’s Health Education Initiative, Alzheimer’s Association</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Kinship Support Network, Edgewood Center for Children and Families</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Groceries to Go, Elder Services Network</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Experience Corps, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Center on Aging and Health</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Assistive Equipment Demonstration Project, University of Massachusetts, Gerontology Institute</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Senior Wellness Project, Northshore Senior Center</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>A Matter of Balance, Boston University, Royal Center for Enhancement of Late-Life Function</td>
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**American Public Health Association**

APHA champions the health of all people and all communities, strengthens the public health profession, and speaks out for public health issues and policies backed by science. The mission of the Aging and Public Health Section of APHA is to promote the health and well-being of individuals as they age by improving their health, function, quality of life, and financial security.

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**Archstone Foundation**

Archstone Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan, private foundation dedicated to improving the health and well-being of older Californians and their caregivers. The Foundation has awarded more than $119 million in grants since it was established in 1987.