

HSIIP SUCCESS STORY #6

MR. PARK*

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROGRAM

Since May 2016, AbleLiving Services has been a contributing member of the Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan (HSIIP), a collaborative initiative to reduce social isolation among seniors in Greater Hamilton.

The AbleLiving Community Connector identifies isolated seniors through outreach and engagement in target neighborhoods, and through healthcare touch-points. The Connector assesses needs and opportunities, develops sustainable connections with community services and activities, creates plans to link isolated seniors to resources, and follows up to ensure seniors are anchored and sustaining connections.

Are you socially isolated or do you know someone that is?

Call 905-528-5629, ext. 284 to speak with a HSIIP Community Connector.

MR. PARK'S STORY* - WHAT'S IN A HIP?

What's in a hip? Mr. Park would tell you it is a whole lot of freedom. At 92 years old, Mr. Park was isolated in his 7th floor apartment in central Hamilton because he was in desperate need of a hip replacement, which limited his mobility. In his mind, surgery was an unlikely possibility: "Who is going to operate on a guy my age?" Without close family or friends to support him, he resigned himself to a life with constant pain, limited mobility and little chance to get out and about in the community. Because grocery shopping wasn't an easy option, Mr. Park ate at the local coffee shop twice daily; this outing was also his only opportunity for social interaction. Through the HSIIP, AbleLiving Services of Hamilton helped him access essential supports like Meals on Wheels and DARTS for transportation. Knowing that the sole reason for Mr. Park being isolated was his hip, the Connector focused on fixing this. "This is a gentleman who is stable and doesn't even take any medication, there must another option." The Connector contacted the Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMsmart), health care providers dedicated to providing quality health care to Hamiltonians wherever and whoever they may be. A doctor from the team met with Mr. Park in his home and arranged for an Orthopaedic surgeon to review his case. Because of this, he was booked for hip surgery and it was a success! He remains in his home and is active in his community once again. Here is what Mr. Park had to say about our program: "Nice to have a main contact, helping with hospital stay, connecting with great doctors and other services. They were spot on every time and dedicated!" As this success story shows, sometimes a hip is more than just a hip.



*names have been changed to protect privacy

Learn more about the Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan:

WEBSITE:

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*Materials co-developed by AbleLiving Services & Gilbrea Centre, McMaster University

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