



# COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING BEYOND CLINIC WALLS

## PATHWAY: ELDERLY AND CHRONICALLY ILL

### Initiative Description

Beyond Clinic Walls (BCW) is an innovative outreach initiative that started with the EVMS Glennan Center for Geriatrics in 2010 where students from all programs form inter-professional teams and make home visits to underresourced older adults. With the older participant, students check the food supply, inspect the home for safety hazards, review medications, and spend time socializing. Any issues identified by the students are communicated to EVMS Geriatrics Faculty as well as to community partners, including Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia to help address the elderly participants' needs.

### Project Description-HealthWise Technology Coaching

- ❑ Healthwise coaches teach novice technology users, all 55 years or better, how to use various computer features such as WiFi, Zoom, email and the Birdsong App, which has an array of educational, musical and cognitively stimulating programs.
- ❑ Coaches engage virtually with the participant each week for 3 months and conduct a variety of digital activities.
- ❑ Coaches receive training and assignments from the HealthWise Technology Program Project Manager.
- ❑ Students may participate in an research study on technology training and social isolation and may qualify for financial support to attend state and national meetings.

### Project Description - Memory Clinic Questionnaires

- ❑ Geriatric patients coming to the Memory Clinic traditionally complete a lengthy medical questionnaire during their appointment.
- ❑ This new project would involve students remotely assisting patients/caregivers in completing this paperwork ahead of their visit.
- ❑ We aim to increase clinic efficiency, helping patients to receive care in a timely manner.

### Community Outcomes/ Results

- ↑ Social support
- ↑ Ability for participants to remain independent
- ↑ Safety in the home
- ↑ Advocacy for older participants

### Facilitator

Madeline L. Dunstan, MS  
*Associate Director of Education,  
Glennan Center for Geriatrics and  
Gerontology*

### The Need

- ❑ The older population is expected to continue to grow significantly in the future.
- ❑ Approximately 27% of older adults live alone.
- ❑ Over 1/3 of Medicare beneficiaries (all ages) reported feeling less socially connected.
- ❑ Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services & Profile of Older American.