Connecting Older Adults to Students through Inter-Professional Telecare

(COAST-IT)

Recruiting Older Adults to Participate!

Brief Explanation of the Project:

Older adults have been significantly impacted by loneliness and social isolation during COVID-19. At the same time, health professional students in their first 1-2 years of training have lost opportunities to have interactions with older adult patients. The team at the CU Anschutz Multidisciplinary Center on Aging hosts a social isolation outreach program where students from either the CU Anschutz School of Pharmacy, College of Nursing or School of Dental Medicine programs will pair with an older adult to have weekly to bi-monthly social phone calls. These calls are meant to help older adult’s combat loneliness and the feeling of isolation that so many have experienced. The older adults, through these phone conversations, will help students in their future clinical practices improve their communication skills and better serve their older adult patients. For many of these students, older adults will be their largest patient population, so working on honing their communication skills is extremely important to become better clinicians.

Criteria to ensure success for the participants:

- Older adults who have felt some mental or physical health effects from loneliness and isolation that has occurred due to COVID-19 or other recent social changes.

- Older Adults who would enjoy interacting with a student regularly and volunteer to be a part of the program. The older adult would consent to be contacted and be willing/wanting to participate. A short consent form will need to be signed.

- Older Adults who could successfully participate in regularly scheduled (up to weekly or bi-monthly) phone calls with a student. Our hope is the student and older adult would remain phone partners through the duration of the student’s educational time on campus.

- Older Adults who are comfortable communicating on the phone.
• Older Adults who would enjoy regularly scheduled extended social conversations with a pharmacy, nursing or dental medicine student.

If you are interested in participating yourself as an older adult in this program or are a service provider of a community of older adults and interested in having your residents participate please let Jodi Waterhouse know at Jodi.waterhouse@cuanschutz.edu.

Thank you so much for your consideration wanting to participate in this unique program to connect older adults with students!

For more information and to participate please contact:

Jodi Waterhouse, MHA
CU Anschutz Multidisciplinary Center on Aging
Director, Outreach Programs
O) 303.724.0832
Jodi.waterhouse@cuanschutz.edu
https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/center-on-aging