

Staying connected: Intergenerational experiences connect the community

Recognized for its innovative videoconferencing programs, Robin Run Retirement Center has been connecting older adults with the greater community for many years. Through videoconferencing, residents enjoy access to new contacts and activities, opportunities to share their interests, and the benefits of intergenerational communication. Young students who connect with the older adults through the network are also enthusiastic about the programs – especially those where the Robin Run residents reflect on their life experiences and share those experiences with others.



As a result of one program, a resident submitted her grandmother’s wedding gown for display in The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Another resident, inspired by the book *Hidden in Plain View*, made a quilt that illustrated ways slaves escaped to freedom. She then talked – via the network – with students who

had studied the book in school. On yet another occasion, students studying issues related to psychology met with residents to ask about the social and mental effects of aging. Overall, the intergenerational program has been, and continues to be, a powerful way for older adults and the community to stay connected and benefit from the resources each can offer.



“Distance learning is so effective because it is easy to see the person talking or giving information – or asking questions.”

– Resident, Robin Run Retirement Center

Impact on Learning

- n Older adults enjoy interactions with others outside the center as they continue lifelong learning.
- n Schools and students tap into a powerful, intergenerational experience.
- n Older adults serve as mentors and tutors to students.

Event Stats

Site of the event:
Robin Run Retirement Center

Number of programs 30

Awards received:
AHSA Creativity Award for innovative programs; Indiana Distance Learning Association Award