



Full Circle America

Independence Initiative: 2013

Description: Putting technology in the hands of families of young adults with disabilities to improve their ability to promote independent living in community.

Purpose: Waiting lists for community support services are unacceptable and we must initiate some other action now. Care provided is often fragmented, not flexible enough, and too expensive.

Target Members: Young adults beyond high school who desire to live more independently, either in their own apartment or at home. Family members while very involved can not and should not be there 24/7 to supervise their lives.

Goals: To find ways to incorporate affordable technology to augment what families and communities can do to further this objective of independent living.

Approach: Full Circle America, a small Maine company, has created a 'High Tech, High Touch' support solution first developed to help frail elders remain independent and happy in their own homes, and now over the last few years has used the same approach with a couple of young adults with disabilities. FCA is going to work with CHOM, MACSP, and the John F. Murphy homes over the next year in a pilot initiative to serve and better understand the needs and desires of the individuals and families that participate.

Cost: 2 options

1) DIY version: \$350 one time payment. You will receive

- ⤴ a smart gateway (technology hub)
- ⤴ 1-2 remotely-controlled, high vision, motion-activated webcams
- ⤴ access via home or office computer or your cellphone to a specially-designed user-friendly platform to view secure, password-protected live video, archived motion-generated snapshots, plus a personal member electronic calendar and data base.

2) FCA support-team version: \$399/ month

- ⤴ Same technology and family access as above
- ⤴ FCA-trained monitors spot-checking cameras and archived photos, and filing an 'touch report' 3x/day, 7 days/week with an eye to identifying problems before they occur.
- ⤴ 24/7 call center for member access, problem-solving, special requests, and social support for families and enrollees.
- ⤴ 2 coordinated volunteer visits per week for friendship and social support.
- ⤴ Close integration with existing family and care-giver support.

Data collection:

- ⤴ Initial interview with member and family
- ⤴ Exit interview with each enrolled member and family
- ⤴ Monthly updates with all participants
- ⤴ Involvement of all participants and families in refining objectives and the service model.