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GRANT PROVIDES FUNDS FOR SAIDO Learning® IN WASHINGTON SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES

Covenant Living Communities and Services to Administer Training and Implementation of Memory Impairment Programming

Skokie, Ill.: Skilled nursing and memory care residents within senior living communities who are experiencing memory impairment will benefit from an initiative to increase their levels of engagement through a three-year grant program awarded from the state of Washington. Participants at eight communities in the Seattle and Yakima Valley areas will take part in SAIDO Learning that will be run by employees within those communities.

SAIDO Learning was developed by the Kumon Learning Therapy Center, part of the Kumon Institute of Education in Japan, as a program designed for individuals with memory impairment. Those with Alzheimer's and other dementias meet with trained staff who provide individualized structured mental exercises focusing on simple arithmetic, writing, and reading aloud in an attempt to increase engagement and positively impact the symptoms of dementia.

Covenant Living Communities and Services, in partnership with LeadingAge Washington, applied for the grant to offer SAIDO to more individuals in the state.

"Our organization currently offers SAIDO Learning in communities from coast-to-coast," said Terri Cunliffe, Covenant Living president and CEO. "This initiative is exciting because we've seen over the years just how much SAIDO is making a difference in the lives of those with memory impairment and for the employees who volunteer to run the sessions."

SAIDO was first introduced in the U.S. in 2013 by the Eliza Jennings senior living organization in Cleveland, Ohio. In 2018, Covenant Living became the North American Master License Holder for SAIDO with a strategic plan of expanding the programming to even more people across the country.

Through the help of LeadingAge Washington, a non-profit association serving organizations who provide care and housing for older adults, eight senior living communities have been identified as SAIDO participants.

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“Two of the main criteria for Covenant Living to receive this grant was being able to improve quality of care and quality of life for individuals who live in skilled care or memory care,” said Deb Murphy, president, CEO, LeadingAge Washington. “We know SAIDO accomplishes both of those criteria and Covenant Living has proven this initiative is extremely valuable for those living with memory impairment. “

The senior living communities with skilled nursing and memory care participating in SAIDO include, Bayview Seattle, Seattle, WA; Foss Home and Village, Seattle, WA; Bothell Health Care, Bothell, WA; Eliseo, Tacoma, WA; Garden Village, Yakima, WA; Heron’s Key, Gig Harbor, WA; Kin On Healthcare Center, Seattle, WA; and McKay Healthcare & Rehab, Soap Lake, WA.

Covenant Living will hold SAIDO training sessions with employees from these communities and expect the sessions to kick off beginning in early 2023. The funding runs through the end of October 2025. More information about SAIDO can be found at SaidoLearning.org.

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ABOUT COVENANT RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Chicago-based Covenant Living Communities and Services is among the nation’s largest, non-profit, senior services provider. It serves 6,000 residents at 19 retirement communities in 10 states and offers independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care, and rehabilitation. Through its LifeConnect® Wellness Partnership, residents can access resources and opportunities that are designed to enrich the mind, body, and spirit and complement each person’s unique journey. Covenant Living is a ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church and has been serving seniors since 1886. For more information, visit www.covliving.org, [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).