

For immediate release: Friday, December 4, 2015

AgeWell at the JCC and Vintage Achieve National Senior Center Accreditation

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh and Familylinks are pleased to announce that their respective Senior Centers, AgeWell at the JCC and Vintage Inc., have achieved National Senior Center Accreditation, making these two centers the first in western Pennsylvania to have achieved such a milestone.

Through a collaborative grant from Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Area Agency on Aging, AgeWell at the JCC and Vintage partnered to jointly pursue Senior Center Accreditation through the National Council on Aging (NCOA)/National Institute of Senior Centers.

“The accreditation process improves and strengthens overall senior center operations. It results in official recognition that a senior center is meeting its mission. We applaud these two providers for being the first to bring National Accreditation to our region”, said Mildred Morrison, Administrator, Area Agency on Aging.

NCOA’s National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) offers the nation’s only National Senior Center Accreditation Program. To advance the quality of senior centers nationwide, NISC developed the program with nine standards of excellence for senior center operations. These standards serve as a guide for all senior centers to improve their operations today—and position themselves for the future. The accreditation process improves and strengthens overall senior center operations. It results in official recognition that a senior center is meeting its mission in a nationally accepted, professional fashion.

AgeWell at the JCC and Vintage serve as two of Allegheny County’s Senior Center Community Focal Points, providing an array of programs and services ranging from nutrition, fitness and wellness, socialization and recreation, volunteerism, information & referral and outreach to Allegheny County’s older adults age 60+.

AgeWell at the JCC has been part of the Senior Center network of Allegheny County’s Department of Human Services, Area Agency on Aging, since the early 70s, providing a variety of programs and activities to stimulate the participants physically, mentally and socially, for 43 years.

Unique to the Senior Center program is a decade old partnership-AgeWell Pittsburgh. AgeWell Pittsburgh is a collaborative program of the Jewish Association on Aging, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh and Jewish Family & Children’s Service. The goal of the collaboration is to provide seamless delivery of services to Pittsburgh’s older adults, providing support to live as independently as possible.

Vintage Inc., a service of Familylinks, was founded in 1973 as a comprehensive, urban senior center in the East End of Pittsburgh and has a focus on promoting the wellness of older adults. Vintage plays an important role in the lives of older adults by offering a wide array of high quality activities with a focus on pro-active health and wellness, such as yoga and tai chi, dance and art classes, travel to museums and live performances, computer classes, health screenings, informational speakers and daily meals. Vintage is a licensed provider of Stanford University’s Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, an evidence based program for adults to learn management strategies for conditions such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, cancer and other ongoing health issues. This program is supported by Highmark, the Allegheny County Medical Society and the United Way of Allegheny County.

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