



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Aging Care Connections Awarded \$965,000 Grant for National Expansion of Transitional Care Program *5,500 Older Adults and Caregivers to benefit from Replication of National Model***

**LA GRANGE, IL** (July 17, 2018) - Aging Care Connections, a nationally recognized leader in bridging the path between the hospital and homes for older adults, announces that it was recently awarded a \$965,000 two-year grant from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to support the expansion and implementation of the Bridge Model of Transitional Care and AIMS (Ambulatory Integration of the Medical and Social) interventions to directly serve a significant population of low-income, vulnerable older adults in the Chicago metro area and nationally.

The funding will support services to 5,500 older adults and their caregivers by Aging Care Connections and its partners, Rush University Medical Center, Jewish Social Service Agency in Montgomery County, Maryland, and Kenneth Young Center in Illinois. “Aging Care Connections is deeply committed to improving the quality of life of older adults,” shared Debra Verschelde, Executive Director at Aging Care Connections. “Through these person-centered interventions, older adults and their caregivers will be empowered to access the care and resources necessary to manage interconnected medical and social challenges.”

Aging Care Connections and Rush are leaders in Chicago and across the nation in implementing evidence-based, social work led care models to support vulnerable older adults and their families. By supporting older adults and caregivers throughout the continuum of care—at hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, primary care offices, and their homes—they are able to utilize the “medical home” concept. “This grant is especially exciting because it allows us to grow the network of organizations providing these important services to older adults in their communities,” reflected Robyn Golden, Associate Vice President of Population Health and Aging at Rush. “In the healthcare landscape we’re in, partnering with healthcare providers can open a lot of doors for community-based organizations while also leveraging all they have to offer in terms of supporting people to age safely in the community.”

The Bridge Model, developed by Rush and Aging Care Connections, is an interdisciplinary transitional care intervention that supports older adults to ensure a safe and healthy transition from the hospital or nursing facility back to their homes and communities. The only recognized dementia-friendly evidence-based transitional care model, Bridge provides the flexibility for truly person-centered interventions with a range of populations. The AIMS Model, developed at Rush, follows a guided protocol to assess the needs of patients with complex health and social needs and then provides risk-focused care planning and care management by master’s prepared social workers. The AIMS social worker assists people with the biopsychosocial and functional issues impacting their medical care plan adherence or physical condition in partnership with the primary care team.

“The Weinberg Foundation is dedicated to helping the most vulnerable older adults age with maximum independence and quality of life,” shared Aaron Merki, Managing Director, Programs and Grants, &

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Program Director, Older Adult Services at The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. “We are particularly excited to support the expansion of these two models – AIMS and Bridge – which are building the field of evidence-based interventions that address social determinants of health, in partnership with the medical community, with the goal of ameliorating health crises, loss of independence and associated healthcare costs.”

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***About Aging Care Connections***

Aging Care Connections is a leader in providing client-centered care to older adults in Chicago’s west suburban townships. Based in La Grange, IL, Aging Care Connections is a non-profit organization that serves over 8,000 older adults, caregivers and their families from 38 communities in the Lyons, Proviso, Riverside, Leyden and Norwood Park townships. The mission of Aging Care Connections is to enrich the quality of life in our community by providing older adults and their families with guidance and support that enhances the ability to age well. To learn more about Aging Care Connections, visit [www.agingcareconnections.org](http://www.agingcareconnections.org).

***About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation***

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, provides approximately \$100 million in annual grants to nonprofits that provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, primarily in the United States and Israel. Grants are focused on meeting basic needs and enhancing an individual’s ability to meet those needs with emphasis on older adults, the Jewish community, and the Foundation’s priority communities of Maryland, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, rural communities in the United States, and the State of Israel. For more information, please visit [www.hjweinbergfoundation.org](http://www.hjweinbergfoundation.org)