

With Mercy LIFE – West Philadelphia’s day center closed during the pandemic, its low-income, older adult participants are at risk for loneliness and social isolation, creating further risk for physical, emotional, and cognitive decline. Operation Reconnect, with a \$22,825 grant from FFA, will pilot deployment of the GrandPad®, a cellular-connected tablet computer designed for older adults. Nursing students from the University of Pennsylvania will become “reverse mentors,” training and encouraging participants to use the device. The intergenerational relationships forged will motivate participants to adopt the device’s video calling features to reconnect with family, friends, and the world around them.