

RCPA 2015 Innovation Award Winners

REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY
PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION



Fairweather Lodge Vocational Program: Greenlight Products

Life Transitions Plus, (LTP) is a nonprofit that provides services to people whose lives are in transition. Our work focuses on people experiencing developmental, intellectual, and behavioral health challenges or whose life circumstances prevent them from obtaining gainful employment, living independently, or achieving personal fulfillment. Services enable them to achieve a better quality of life. LTP accomplishes this through initiatives designed to produce measureable results and to be financially self-sustaining.

The Fairweather Lodge model, a therapeutic living environment for adults recovering from some aspect of mental illness, originated in 1963. The concept is based on a self-improvement model in a supportive living environment where 4 – 8 adults independently maintain a home and run a small business with guidance and support by trained professionals.

Lodge members have taken the idea of running a small business to an exciting new level in creating GreenLight Products, a venture to assemble, perform quality control checks, package, and distribute solar light kits to individuals, families, and schools that have no access to electricity. Recipients of these lights, mostly all in developing countries, have no access to clean light after the sun goes down. They depend almost exclusively on kerosene light, whose toxic smoke results in nearly 4,000 deaths each day worldwide. A full review of the scope of this problem is summarized in a video produced by Greenlight: <http://ltp-greenlight.com/video/>.

The GreenLight venture adds value to the lives of the men living in the lodge, aids in their personal recovery, and provides a lasting benefit to recipients of the lights. This double impact is an exciting new model of responsible social entrepreneurship; a project that deserves the honor of true innovation with community impact.



Structured Interdisciplinary Rehab Bedside Rounds (SIRBR)

The need for team dialogue including the patient was a goal at Wellspan Surgery and Rehabilitation Hospital (WSRH). A possible solution existed in the concept of team discussion at the bedside with the patient.

WSRH opened in April 2012 as an acute care hospital with an inpatient rehabilitation unit. Our initial approach to collaborative care was with a traditional daily interdisciplinary huddle in a conference room. This did not include the patient or the primary care team providers. We were not satisfied since information shared was not necessarily done so with timeliness and accuracy. Many questions could not be answered.

We decided to pilot an innovative approach to include the patient and the team directly caring for the patient at the bedside. We call this Structured Interdisciplinary Rehab Bedside Rounds (SIRBR). Our goal was for each team member to address specific components of care, which accomplished both sharing of information and interaction between the team and patient. Our plan was to have these rounds twice weekly, led by the physiatrists. The primary team included the hospitalist, primary nurse, case manager, occupational therapist, and physical therapist. Ad hoc team members included respiratory therapist, dietitian, and psychologist.

Since starting SIRBR, we have improved outcomes with patient experience and employee engagement. Patients and families appreciate the opportunity to speak with the entire team. This concept seems to have generated a greater sense of team pride and spirit.