



OHIO NURSING HOME QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Opening Minds through Art (OMA)

Description

Opening Minds through Art (OMA) is an award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people with dementia. It is designed to provide opportunities for creative self-expression and social engagement for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Developed in 2007 at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center in Oxford, Ohio, the program is grounded in person-centered care principles.

OMA sessions are led by trained facilitators. Each elder is paired with a trained volunteer (college/high school student or community member) who provides guidance during the art-making process but who makes no aesthetic decisions for the artist. Both the art-making process and the final artwork created remind staff and family members of the vital, creative person who still remains. *OMA helps others to view people with dementia more positively. This new attitude in turn directly improves the quality of interaction with and care of people with dementia.*

OMA has received recognition as one of the nation's most innovative visual art programs for people with dementia:

- Best Practice award from Leading Age Ohio (2011).
- Selected to train artists and administrators by the Creative Center's Creative Aging Training Institute in New York City annually since 2013.
- Selected by the National Center for Creative Aging to be a part of the "Creative Caregiving Guide," an online resource for caregivers of people with dementia (2015).
- Received "Program of Distinction" award from Generations United (2015-17).
- Received the Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Award in the Creative Expression category (2016).

Objectives/goals of the program:

1. To promote the social engagement, autonomy, and dignity of people with dementia by providing creative self-expression opportunities.
2. To provide staff and volunteers with opportunities to build close relationships with people who are living with dementia.

3. To show the public the creative self-expression capacities of people with dementia through exhibitions of their artwork.
4. To contribute to the scholarly literature of dementia care and the arts.

How to Join

Activities staff, nursing staff, artists, service learning educators and those wishing to implement OMA must attend a 3.5 day Facilitator Training session or a hybrid Facilitator Training program, combining online learning with a one-day in-person practicum, to learn OMA methodology and philosophy. Please check OMA's website for details: www.ScrippsOMA.org or contact Beth Rohrbaugh at rohrbaea@MiamiOH.edu or call 513-529-7172.

Brief Description of Required Activities

- Complete application form to assess organizational readiness to adopt OMA
- Identify a practicing visual artist (may be a staff member with art as a hobby or a practicing artist)
- Have a staff member(s) and the identified artist attend OMA Facilitator Training
- Recruit volunteers to attend OMA sessions weekly for 6-12 weeks
- Use OMA video clips provided to train volunteers
- Conduct OMA sessions weekly (60-90 minutes/week)
- Evaluate the OMA sessions using the tools provided
- Conduct an art show annually
- Complete progress reports twice a year with photo/video/text supporting evidence and OMA Standards Check List annually

Participation dates

Interested nursing homes will participate in a one-year program in FY 2016, 2017, 2018. The year of participation starts with attending an OMA Facilitator Training session. These are typically held several times a year. Close monitoring and consultation support for success will be provided by Scripps Gerontology Center for the 12 months following the facilitator training.

Evidence of Participation in the Project

Expected evidence of participation in the project should be kept by the nursing home for use in state survey to demonstrate compliance with Sec. 3721.072 (B) which states that "Beginning July 1, 2013, each nursing home shall participate every two years in at least one of the quality improvement projects included on the list made available by the department of aging under the nursing home quality initiative established under section 173.60 of the Revised Code."

Proof of participation includes:

1. OMA Facilitator Training certificate of completion
2. Photographs or original artwork created by residents that reflect OMA methodology
3. Evaluation results completed by residents and volunteers

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4. Completed OMA semi-annual reports and OMA Standards Check List after one year of participation

Resources Available to Participants

- Training for up to 2 staff members to attend OMA Facilitator training.
- Lodging and mileage reimbursement for participants residing more than 50 miles from the in-person training location.
- OMA Handbook with 20 field-tested OMA art projects and all necessary materials to implement and evaluate OMA program.
- Online video-based training modules to train OMA volunteers.
- Post training consultation and online support.
- Supply list and seed money to purchase recommended art and studio supplies.

Contact

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