

# The Fairhaven – UW-Whitewater Connection

## Engaging Our Older Adult Neighbors & Growing Students' Interest in Aging

Fall Semester, 2019



### Bullet points about impact

- Point 1 Students developed transferrable skills
- Point 2 Raised awareness about the aging population
- Point 3 Increased social engagement among older adults
- Point 4 Enhanced community-university partnership

## PROJECT PURPOSE AND RESULTS

The Social Work Community-Based Learning Class (CBL) is multidisciplinary course open to students in all majors that is designed to enhance students' knowledge in aging and address a community need related to aging. The impetus for this course stems from the rapidly growing population of older adults and limited workforce to support the aging population. The Fall 2019 CBL class partnered with Fairhaven Seniors Services – a life plan community for older adults, and addressed the community issue of social engagement. Older adults residing in skilled nursing environments are at greater risk for social isolation, which is a negative health outcome that leads to increased morbidity and mortality. To reduce the potential for social isolation, students implemented and delivered TimeSlips™, a creative story-telling intervention designed to engage older adults with complex health needs. Cumulatively, the students engaged over 20 Fairhaven residents who reside in skilled nursing and increased their levels of engagement –thereby reducing their risk for social isolation. Students showed significant growth in their understanding of the aging population, developed transferrable skills, and contributed to enhancing the quality of life for their older adult neighbors.

### Course Offering Information

The Class (SOCWORK 360) is offered once a year.

Format: Hybrid with 8-weeks of classes meeting at Fairhaven.

Satisfies: BA 300/400 Breadth Requirement for non-Social Work Majors

Minors: Human Services Foundation & Family, Health, and Disabilities Studies

