

Lifting up our Neighbors with Developmental Disabilities Through **Assistive Technology**

Xavier University Philosophy, Politics, and the Public Students



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The background of the slide is a photograph of a city square. In the center is a large, ornate fountain with multiple tiers and water spraying upwards. Behind the fountain is a tall, dark statue of a person with arms outstretched, standing on a pedestal. The surrounding area includes trees, a paved plaza, and parts of buildings in the background. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon.

The goal:

To implement a technology first model of disability services to promote independence and foster community engagement.

A background image showing a person's hand holding a smartphone, with another hand pointing at the screen. The person is wearing a watch with a black and white checkered strap. The image is dark and slightly blurred.

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Our Research

Year long policy development and research

Crisis in the DD **community**

- Increasing cost with increasing dependence on care
- Shortage in DSP (direct support professionals)
- Increasing need independence and sustainability
- COVID has catalyzed the crisis

“There seems to be a shortage of personal care assistants... It's a national epidemic.” - Suzanne Hopkins, Director of Programs at Center for Independent Living Options (Oct. 2020)

The need for services is set to rise from

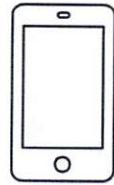
12 million to 27 million

by the year 2050

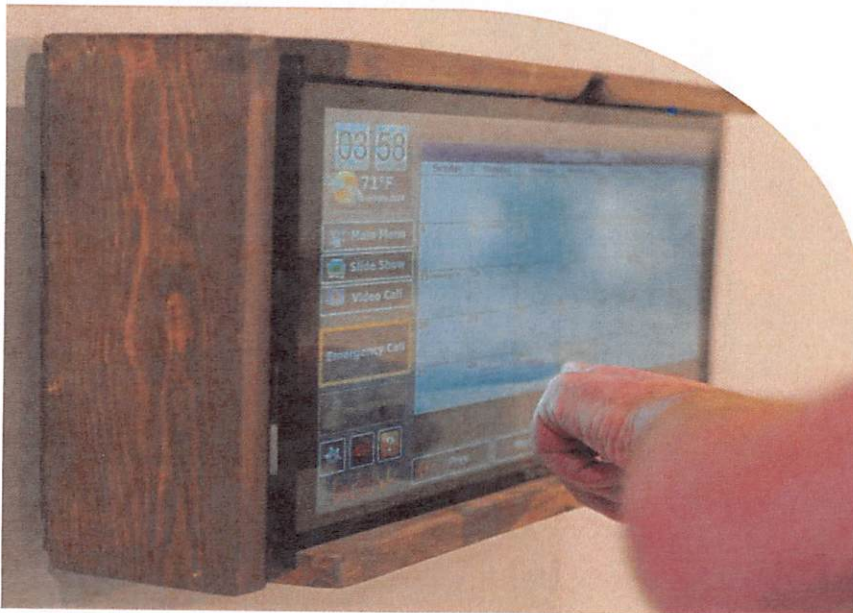
LADD's Smart Home



Assistive Technology



This integrated technology system is the backbone of LADD's smart home and serves as a way to schedule daily tasks, connect with a healthcare professional, and even make emergency phone calls.



This smart fridge allows individuals to organize food, meals, and plan a grocery list for the week.

Primary concerns in the DD community

Independence:

- Living without 24 hour care
- Travel to and from work
- Personal cooking and cleaning
- Getting ready for the day
- Sense of belonging, friendship, and community

Safety:

- Concerned family and neighbors
- Safe homes, locks, and security systems
- Advanced technology and home protection
- Feeling of safety and security in the community

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a park or plaza. In the center, a statue of a person stands on a pedestal. The scene is surrounded by many trees with green foliage. The lighting is dim, suggesting dusk or dawn. A red curved shape is on the left side of the image.

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Community Engagement

How community engagement and understanding will impact involvement.

Long term **benefits** of assistive technology

1 Sustainable care options relieve the shortage of DSP workers

2 Increased involvement in the workforce

3 Movement from institutional care facilities to community integration



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Next Steps

Community, policy, and legislative next steps.



Short Term:

American Rescue Plan

Long Term:

Integrated assistive technology, community support, city involvement

Thank you!

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