



NEWS RELEASE – Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

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Senator Uecker Learns More About Veteran Program on Home Visit



The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) recently hosted State Senator Joe Uecker for an afternoon in Scioto County that included a meeting about the Music and MemorySM project with Veterans who are enrolled in the Veteran Self-Directed Program through the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). The AAA7 is partners in the program with the VAMC that allows Veterans to self-direct the long-term care services they receive in their home. Senator Joe Uecker had a delightful visit with program recipient Charles Yeley and his family in Portsmouth, Ohio. Mr. Yeley, a World War II Veteran, participates in the Music and MemorySM program and enjoys his individual iPod and personalized musical playlist that helps him better cope with his health conditions.

Pictured above are, left to right, Keshia Kelley with the Chillicothe VA Medical Center, Senator Joe Uecker, Jackie Evans-Yeley, Charles Yeley, and Merritt Sessor with the Area Agency on Aging District 7.

The VAMC and AAA7 have teamed with the Ohio Department of Aging in a coordinated statewide approach to provide Music and MemorySM to Ohio's Veterans, their caregivers, and others with cognitive impairment in home and community-based settings. Music and MemorySM is an innovative approach to care developed by New York social worker Dan Cohen that uses personalized playlists on digital music players to help people with dementia and other chronic conditions focus and reconnect with the world around them.

Nationally, the primary focus has been on implementing Music and MemorySM in nursing homes and other care facilities; however, Ohio's effort has been the first effort of its' kind in this country to make the program available to individuals and families in home and community-based settings.

Recently, the AAA7 recognized the Chillicothe VAMC for its efforts with this project through the Agency's Community Partnership of the Year Award that was presented at its recent Appreciation Brunch.

For more information, call 1-800-582-7277.