



*The Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Innovation Exchange*

Submission Form

Name and Title of Submitter:	Teri Kollath, Manager of The Academy and Volunteer Services
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Date of Submission:	3/27/09
Title of Innovation:	The Academy at Shell Point
Topic for Submission: (Please choose a topic from the list included in the attached submission guidelines which best describes the innovation you are submitting.)	Life Long Learning and Educational Program
Audience: (Choose one or more, as appropriate.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing (HUD, tax credit, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted Living Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Home & Community Based Services <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Homes <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Communities (CCRC or Fee for Service) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All of the Above

1. **Description of Innovation:** Please succinctly describe the innovative program or service, creative idea or best practice and the resulting benefits to your organization or the consumers you serve. Limit the narrative to three pages, excluding attachments such as forms.

The Academy at Shell Point is a series of life long learning classes which are offered in three semesters annually. The Academy began in 2000, after responding to residents increased interest in educational opportunities. It began its first semester with only 11 classes and today has grown to 70-90 educational classes/courses offered each semester. Currently The Academy focuses on 7 main areas which include:
Computer College- offers everything from beginners basic to building your own website. Classes included have been word processing, introduction to excel, introduction/intermediate use of the Internet, g-mail, sharing photos, using Print Shop, Photo Shop, and computer workshops. New Technology Forums introduce residents to cell phones, electronic book devices, GPA systems, geo cashing, and brain fitness technology.
Financial Seminars- offer information on such financial issues as investments, estate planning, legal matters, and end of life issues.

Mind, Body and Spirit – classes bring a holistic approach to learning. Class offerings have included balance plus, creating memoirs, Hospice care, Old Testament stories, health/wellness topics and treatments, spirituality, and more.

Coffee with a Neighbor- gives residents the opportunity to experience up close and personal the intriguing life of another fellow resident. Neighbors share stories about their exciting careers, life changing events, world travel, service projects, unique talents, overcoming personal challenges, or sharing recent personal initiatives and accomplishments.

For the Love of Learning- caters to a variety of interests of our resident population. Such courses have included poetry, theater, photography, hymnody, sand casting, foreign language, exploring international cultures, just to name a few.

Community Enrichment Series- provides opportunities for our residents to connect to our broader Lee County Community. Speakers from local organizations and institutions present topics from government, the sciences, the arts, and the not for profit arena, the media, and local colleges.

Academy On The Go- takes the classroom on the road. Off campus excursions offer residents opportunities to learn in various eco systems, museums, historical sites, recreational and agricultural areas, view traveling exhibits, monuments, and multi culture points of interests.

The Academy at Shell Point provides learning experiences which touch and enhance the seven dimensions of wellness (emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual, physical, vocational, and environmental). This program promotes mental stimulation and life long learning in all areas of one's "well being" while engaging residents in volunteer opportunities as well.

Shell Point Community has always fostered a strong volunteer program, with half of our 2000 residents volunteering right in their own community, Over 400 residents volunteer as instructors in the Academy. The Academy is supported by an Advisory Board consisting of 8 resident members, willing to serve a two year term during which they make suggestions and give Shell Point a feel for what residents want. Those fields of interest are broad covering areas such as environment, energy, education, health, technology, language, finances, and history. These residents give us great perspectives and direction.

We believe The Academy at Shell Point continues to be successful because we tap into residents who are eager to share a life time of experience and expertise in an educational setting where participation is possible. We continue to create opportunities for existing and new residents "to give" to the Academy. We have learned that the interests of our residents multiplies exponentially. The areas of interest are endless. We continue to tap the experiences and talents of our residents, and we remain open and alert to new and exciting opportunities which never cease to arise. It's all about listening to the resident's stories and capturing the passion of which to retell it, so that others may benefit and learn.

2. **Budget:** Provide information about the annual budget or total cost of your innovation (if a one-time expense) and the number of staff or volunteers used to implement it. If your innovation did not require a budget or staff, please indicate.

The Academy at Shell Point continues to remain a "zero based budget" program yet attracts the highest level of participation of any community program. Courses are also offered to resident across all levels of care. Classes are offered by residents, along with staff and many community presenters teach on a volunteer basis which keeps our costs down. Classes with a charge are passed on to residents as part of a "class fee". In recent years we have budgeted a minimal amount, \$2,000, to support the program costs, such as printing handouts, basic materials/supplies, thank you notes, postage, DVD copies to instructors, "Coffee with a Neighbor" reception and Academy items. We feel this is a small investment for such a worthwhile and well supported program. Last year we had a total of 4480 resident participations in the Academy offerings for the 2008 scholastic year.