

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local Healthcare Organization Provides Free Technology to Nursing Homes and Long Term Care Facilities to Keep Residents and Patients Connected to Loved Ones**

ALBANY, New York — Nursing homes across New York State have had to restrict visitation to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Their doors are now closed to all non-essential visitors. To avoid feelings of isolation and to protect residents' emotional well-being, nursing homes and home care agencies across the country are utilizing technology to connect residents and patients with their families and loved ones.

However, many long term care organizations do not have the proper access to technology or an adequate supply of devices needed to meet current demand.

The Iroquois Healthcare Association (IHA) has provided free Google Chromebooks to nursing homes and home care agencies across New York State through its Workforce Investment Organization (WIO), established in 2018.

“These Chromebooks serve multi purposes,” said Eileen Murphy, senior director of special projects at IHA WIO. “They were originally provided to long term care facilities participating in our online training program designed to enhance the skills of long term care workers. Now, we are able to reconfigure these devices to connect patients and residents to the outside world and allow non-essential nursing home and home care staff to work remotely, thus reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection and equipping long term care organizations to continue business operations. These efforts are being done at no cost to the organization, residents, or staff.”

“The Chromebooks are easy to use and the residents love becoming tech savvy and connecting with friends and family,” said Jill Hartmann, director of human resources at Plattsburgh Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Plattsburgh, New York. “During times like this, it’s great to see such big smiles on their faces.”

“While the separation from family and loved ones can be very difficult, this technology keeps patients and residents connected with family and loved ones through applications

such as Skype, Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, and other video conferencing apps,” Murphy continued. “We encourage any long-term care provider in need of technology to visit us online at [www.ihawio.org](http://www.ihawio.org) to learn more about our offerings.”

*(Photo courtesy of Plattsburgh Rehabilitation & Nursing Center)*

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### **About the Iroquois Healthcare Association Workforce Investment Organization (IHA WIO)**

The Iroquois Healthcare Association (IHA) is a regional trade organization representing over 50 hospitals and health systems in 32 counties of upstate New York, spanning nearly 28,000 square miles. IHA has been designated as the only statewide Workforce Investment Organization (WIO) by the New York State Department of Health to train, retrain, recruit and retain healthcare workers in the long-term care sector.