

**RERC-ACT R2 Project:  
Technology for Remote Family Support for People with Cognitive  
Disabilities**

A growing body of scientific research confirms that connection to ‘social support networks’ – most importantly, family and friends – delivers compelling therapeutic benefits, including enhanced physical and mental health and ultimately, longer life spans.

To that end, CaringFamily’s innovative service enables professional caregivers to encourage active daily dialog between elders and their families, regardless of location- with virtually no additional effort.

An elder’s regular communications with their social support network (typically family and friends) is therapy. Studies have shown that this communication has even more effect on well-being and longevity than does physical exercise.

The CaringFamily service combines two elements to produce the first truly simple on-line caregiving system.

- For elders, CaringFamily’s Digital Mailbox, a customized, full color, internet-connected printer/scanner, enables the exchange of colorful messages with caregivers. Both incoming and outgoing messages are handled entirely on paper – no PC required. Simple to set, use and maintain, the Mailbox features a single button, requires only an existing phone line to operate, and is completely spam, virus, and outsider free.
- For caregivers, a Private Care Network unites professionals, families, friends, and other participants. The elder’s written messages are converted to electronic format for delivery to caregivers; the service transforms incoming digital messages to paper and prints them automatically. Spam, viruses, and other internet challenges are prevented from ever intruding.

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