



Empowerment Through Technology:

Accessible, Affordable, Life-Enhancing Tech

Real Tools, Real Lives, Real Independence

Arc Human Services, Smart Living

AHS Smart Living

Assistive & Enabling Technology
Program

Beyond Barriers, Toward Solutions



Who Are We?

What Do We Do?

Travis Fiem, ETIS, Enabling Technology Integration Specialist

Diana Petschauer, ATP, Assistive Technology Professional

Arc Human Services: Canonsburg, Springdale, Dubois,
Rochester- Residential, Community, Clinical, Student Transition

Statewide AT Services (Assistive Technology)

AHS Smart Living

What is Assistive & Enabling Technology?

Enhancing Independence, Safety, Health & Wellness- at Home, in the Community, and at Work

Supporting Autonomy, Choice, Voice, Dignity, Inclusion, Growth

Supporting Staff – Meaningful Roles, a shift from “Doing For,” to “Enabling With...” Mentorship, Coaching, Impactful change

Empowering Individuals to Build Skills, Gain confidence

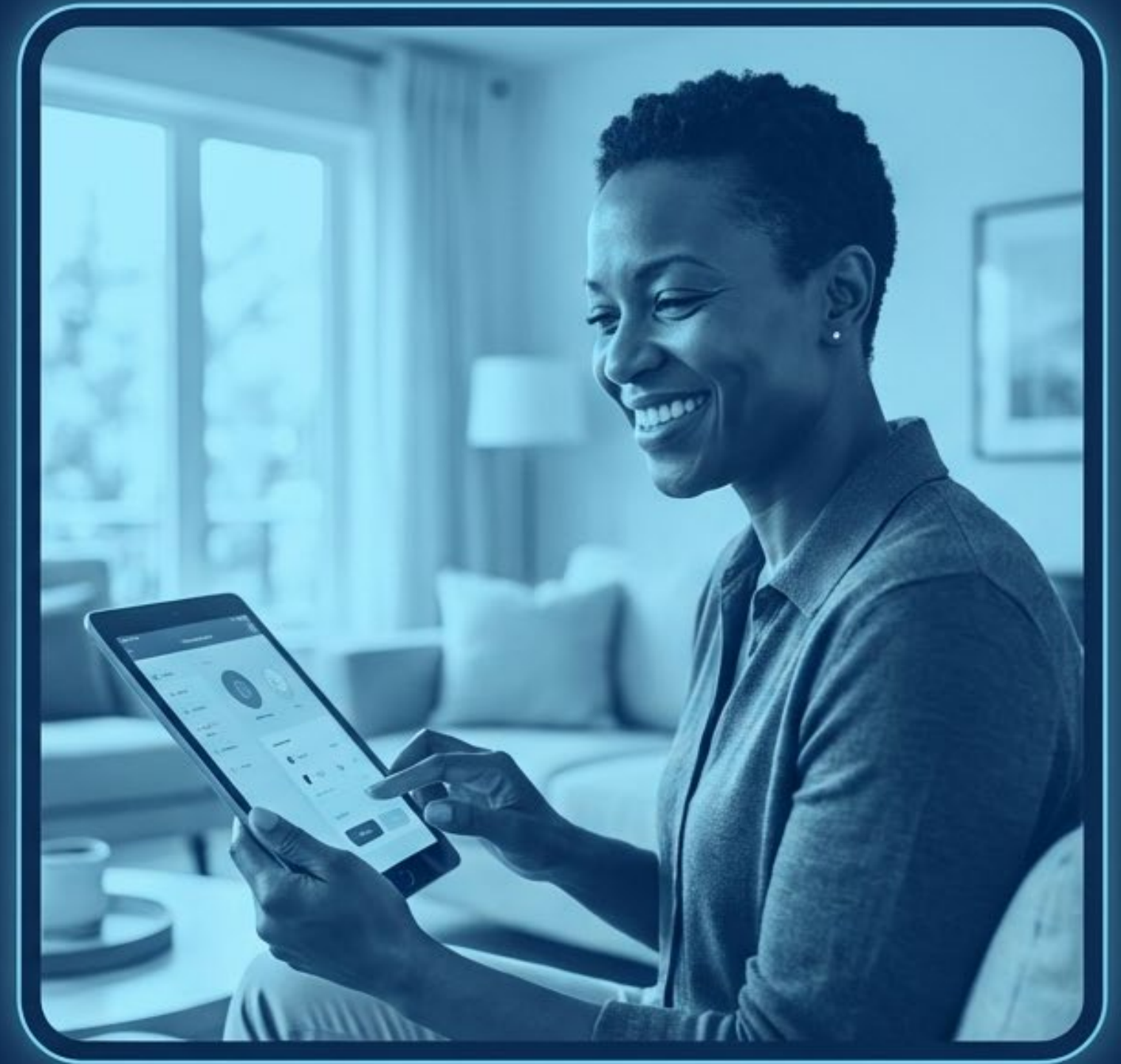
“We believe Smart Living isn’t just about devices, it’s about creating opportunities for people to live their lives their way, supported by technology that fits their needs and goals.”

It’s about thoughtfully integrating tools like smart sensors, remote supports, health monitors, literacy and communication tools into daily routines, not replacing human support, but expanding possibilities.”

Redefining Smart Living

“Smart Living isn’t just about devices—it’s about creating opportunities for people to live their lives their way.”

Technology is thoughtfully integrated into daily routines—not to replace human support, but to radically expand possibilities.



The Five Pillars of Our Approach



Person-Centered

Do Not Start With the Device

Always, Start with the Person

What are their strengths and skills?

What Do they like to Do?

What are their goals, dreams, hopes?

Where do they need support? Which environments or activities? Which tasks?

What is difficult or challenging?

What are the barriers?

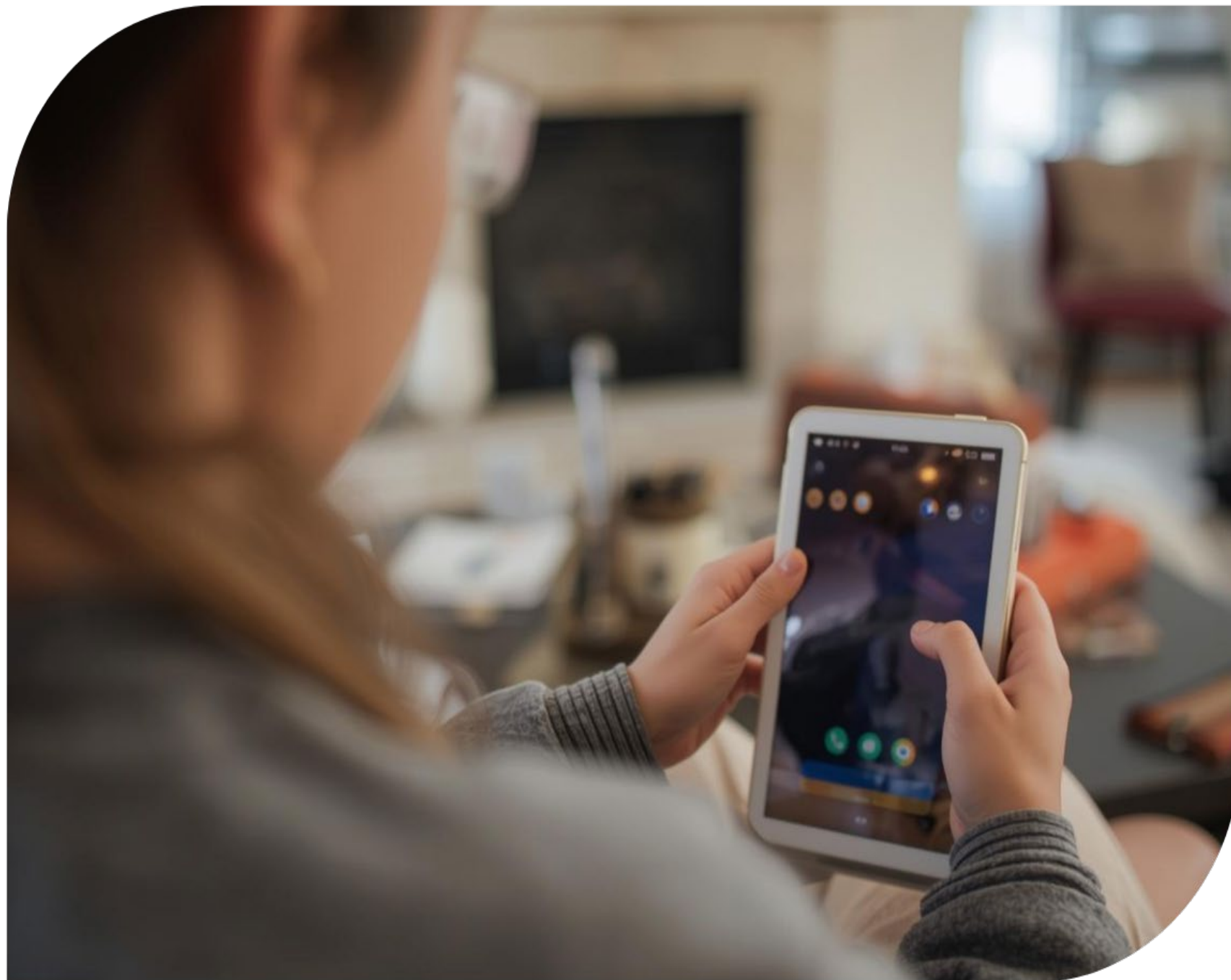
What tools, technologies, features, equipment or devices could help that person to do the task, accomplish the goal, reach their dreams and fulfill their hopes?

How do you explore/try/trial the options?

How Do You get Support for the person to experience the options?

[Smart Living Website](#) [PA State AT Program- Tech OWL](#) [ATAP](#)

Listening to the Whole Support Network



Self-Advocates, Individuals

Families

DSPs

Clinicians

The best solutions emerge from shared understanding

Where Learning Happens



Smart Living Technology Libraries (Canonsburg & Beaver, PA)

- Bridging knowledge gaps by helping people learn what Assistive & Enabling technologies are available.



Smart Living Classroom (Canonsburg, PA)

- Teaching technology-based daily living skills to transition-age students within a tech-integrated classroom and mock apartment.



Smart Living Learning Lab (Peters Township)

- A fully functional, technology-integrated home offering hands-on opportunities to explore how technology supports independence and quality of life.

All locations use a vendor-agnostic, person-centered approach focused strictly on individual goals.

The Smart Living Home

A fully equipped demonstration environment where visitors can safely explore and test independence tools.



- Full-sensory journey in an interactive environment.



- In-person and virtual tours available.



- Explore smart kitchens, medication supports, remote monitoring, and wellness tools.



Fully personalized and configured for each individual prior to their stay (if they choose) to simulate *Realistic* true technology trial before adopting it at home.

End-to-End Technology Enablement



1. Assessment & Evaluation



2. Consultation & Recommendations



3. Training and Implementation Support



4. Troubleshooting & Follow-Up



5. Demonstrations, Trials, and Data Collection



6. Presentations, Workshops, and Webinars



7. Funding Guidance



8. Training and Consultation for Agencies and Professionals

Everyday Impact



Preparing meals independently with smart kitchen tools & appliances.

Managing medications safely with alerts, reminders, and smart dispensers.



Walking safely in the community with wearable boundary awareness tech.

Using voice-activated utilities & entertainment systems.



Managing health, safety, and daily routines via apps, sensors, and automation.

Practicing a telehealth doctor's appointment through a mock visit.



Utilizing Accessibility features (text-to-speech, dictation, magnification, captioning).

Case Studies in Smart Living



Profile 1: Adult with Cerebral Palsy (CP)

Gaining physical autonomy in the home.



Profile 2: Transition Students & Teachers

Building daily living skills in the classroom.



Profile 3: Adult with RM (Residential Management)

Enhancing independent living capabilities.



Profile 4: Young Adult (SS)

Navigating community safety and daily routines.

LIVED EXPERIENCE

An Important Perspective

Self-advocates share what has helped

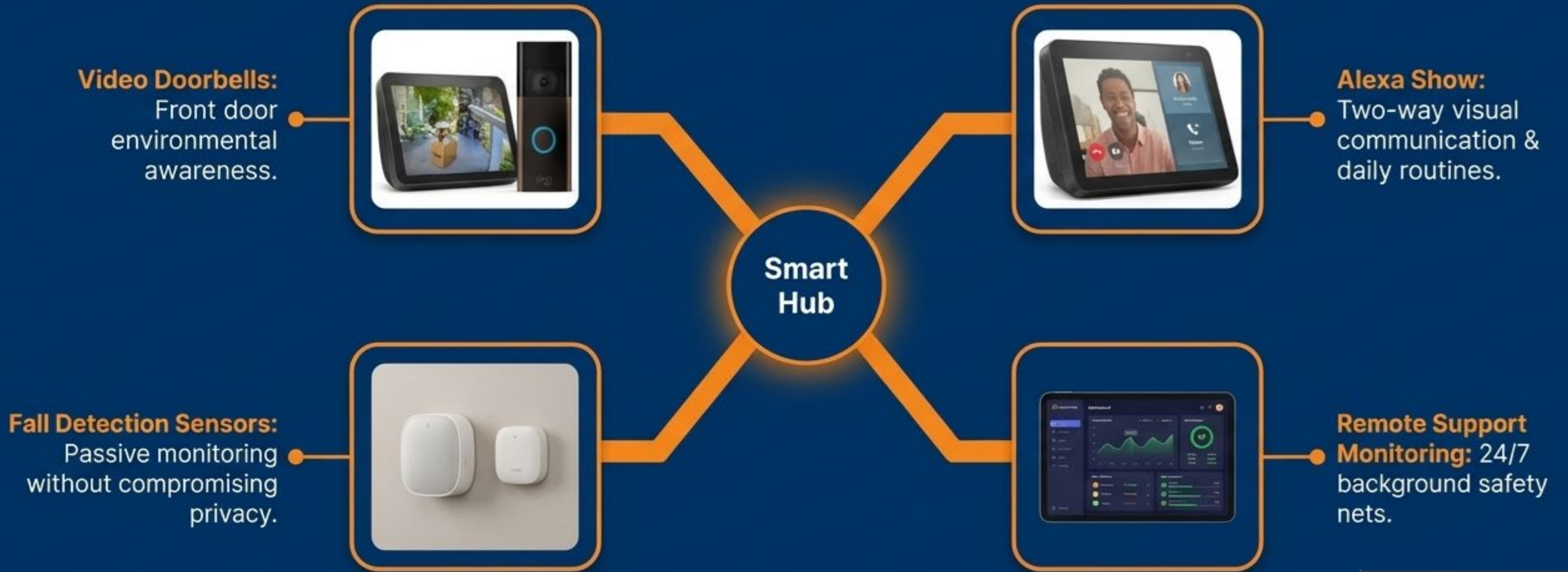
Do you know about [AWC Advocacy Program](#)?



 **Video: Meet Cheryl**

 **Video: Meet Nick**

Domain 1: Safety & Home Monitoring

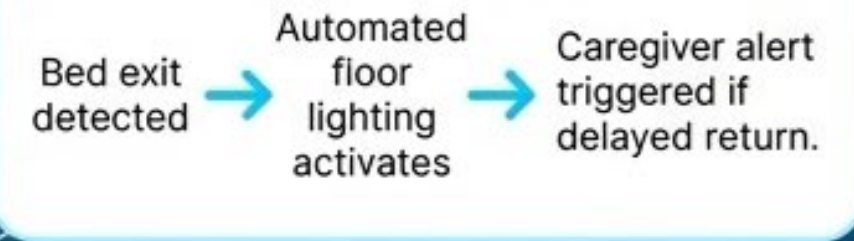


Domain 2: Independent Living at Home



Smart Appliances:
Ovens, refrigerators, and washers that automate complex steps and prevent hazards.

Hero Auto Door Opener:
Seamless accessibility flow with smart lock integration.



Domain 3: Low-Tech & Daily Aids



3D Printed Tools: Custom bottle and can openers designed for specific grip limitations.



Adapted Flatware: Ergonomic designs for independent dining.



Dressing Aids & Magnetic Clothing: Replacing difficult buttons and zippers with magnets to restore privacy and autonomy.

Domain 4: Workplace & Digital Access

The Physical Workspace



Adaptive
keyboards

Trackball mice

Adjustable-height desks

The Digital Interface



Text-to-Speech



Voice Dictation



Screen Magnification

Domain 5: Health & Wellness

Medication Management



Medminder & Spencer dispensers: Visual alerts, locked compartments, and remote tracking.

Sleep & Hygiene



Sleep pods for sensory regulation. Smart bidet seats focusing on physical dignity and automated health scanning.

AI & Biometrics



Smart mirrors for daily wellness checks, and the Luna Cairns health AI personal assistant.

Smart Mirrors, Smart Voice Assistants and AI Personal assistants for social connections, non-invasive biometric monitoring, health alerts and communications for caregivers, family, individuals.

Domain 6: Physical Support & Mobility

Anchored In-Home Mobility

Grab poles, rollators, and shower chairs.

Adjustable height shower fixtures for customized accessibility.



Invisible Community Boundaries

Wearables for GPS tracking and safe geofencing.

Boundary Care and AngelSense alert networks only when someone steps outside their designated safe zones.



The 'Technology First' Commitment

**Technology must be a starting point,
not an afterthought.**

We are committed to embedding everyday and assistive technologies into Individual Support Plans (ISPs) from the very beginning—fundamentally shifting the default approach to care and independence.

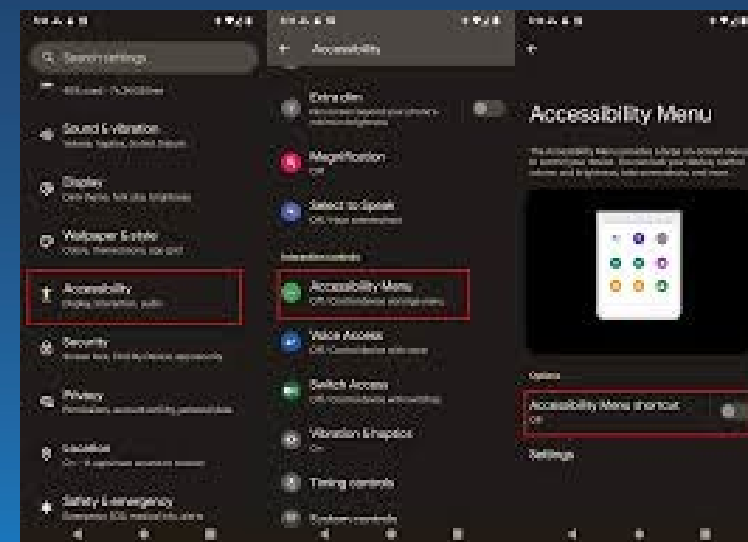
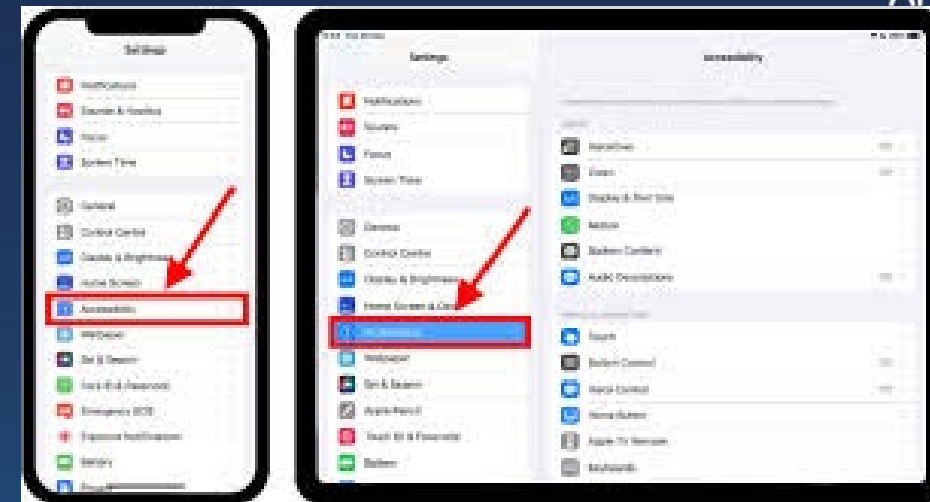
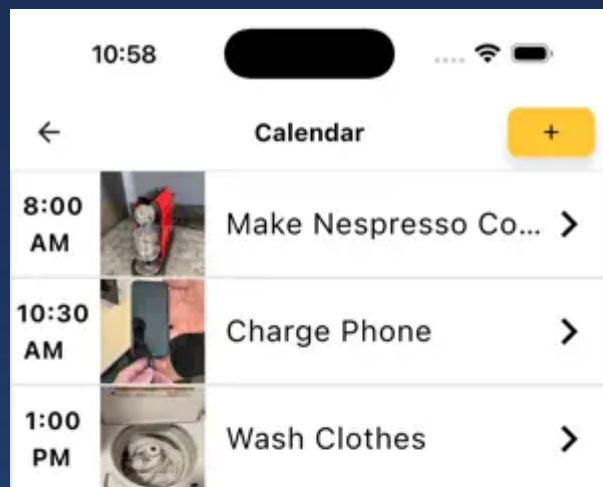
Live Demos!

CanPlan App- Routines, Activities, Daily Support

Seeing AI app

Accessibility Features-Text to Speech, Voice Control, Large Font

AAC apps for communication



The Ripple Effect of Advocacy



What We've Learned



Start Small

Begin with one person, one need, one tool.

Keep the Focus on the Person

Technology should adapt to the individual, not the other way around.

Learn Together

Include teams, families, DSPs, and clinicians in the process.

Teach Technology

People succeed when technology is learned, not just installed.

Simple Often Wins

Sometimes the simplest tools make the biggest difference.

Start Your Smart Living Journey

We invite individuals, families, providers, and partners to discover what Smart Living can offer. Technology should be a starting point, not an afterthought.

Questions / Comments

Visit, Tour the Smart Living Lab Home, Attend an event or webinar!

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Smart Living Services | Enhance Independence Today - Explore Smart Living — Arc Human Services

Email or Call for Our Referral Form & To Discuss Your Needs

Engage With Us



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