

IoT Ecosystem to Help Seniors LIVE HEALTHIER, MORE INDEPENDENT Lives



John Anderson
Independent Living Resident at Maple Knoll

“We’re always thinking globally. Maple Knoll is a great place to try things before we roll them out on a larger scale.”— Andy Craig

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Maple Knoll Communities, Inc., a leader in providing innovative continuum of care services for older adults, is partnering with RoundTower Technologies to build an internet of things (IoT) ecosystem to create a safer and healthier environment for seniors.

RoundTower is a solution provider that delivers innovative solutions and services in the areas of data center infrastructure, cloud automation and DevOps, big data, analytics and IoT, IT Service Management, end-user computing and mobility, and cybersecurity.

Today’s seniors are tech savvy and willing to embrace new technologies that allow them to live independently longer, says Megan Gresham-Ulrich, Maple Knoll Communities vice president of communications. “What we’re seeing is, people are coming here not ready to accept what typical retirement living has looked like in the past. They want to age independently in a setting they’re comfortable with, using technology that improves their comfort level, whatever that may be. That’s why it’s important we partner with an organization like RoundTower that will bring that technology to our residents.”

Older adults residing outside Maple Knoll’s continuum of service communities, yet served through the Village Home Health and Hospice program (a joint venture with Cedar Village in Mason) and Maple Knoll Outreach Services, will also benefit from the IoT ecosystem, Gresham-Ulrich notes.

“The ecosystem will include various

sensors that gather data and work it into a single dashboard format to give our caregivers the information they need to understand our residents’ behaviors and determine if there are patterns requiring intervention to avoid potential health issues,” explains Andy Craig, vice president of technical operations at Maple Knoll.

Maple Knoll and RoundTower are also partners in establishing a technology ServUS Lab, scheduled to open on the Maple Knoll Village campus in Springdale in October. Craig describes it as a place where residents can drop by to try out or offer input on new technologies, purchase technology, or arrange to have technological services set up in their residences. It’s also where residents will be able to set up an Uber ride, and the ride will be tracked from start to finish.

“Mostly, it’s going to be a place where innovation occurs, where everyone comes together, ideas start flying and people get to see and use various technologies and provide feedback,” Craig adds.

“RoundTower helped us build our solid core infrastructure and network – our whole networking piece, including data storage and security,” says Craig. “We needed those things, not just for the IoT ecosystem but for our normal, everyday business. They’ve



Pictured from left to right: Austin Gresham, RoundTower; Mark Plunket, Maple Knoll; Andy Craig, Maple Knoll; Byron Schaller, RoundTower; Wes Vandegriff, RoundTower.

helped us select the right products, and they've helped us with installation, support and security. With IoT right now and the direction we want to go, it's kind of like the Wild West. We're relying heavily on RoundTower, depending on them to lead us in the right direction."

Traditionally, Maple Knoll's sensor systems have required multiple dashboards for monitoring residents and tracking their data. The new IoT ecosystem, with its state-of-the-art sensors, integrated analytics and single dashboard, promises a more expedient, concise picture of what is happening with each resident at any given moment, notes Austin Gresham, a senior IT transformation consultant for RoundTower.

"You have all these devices and sen-

sors sending metrics like heart rate, pace, location, so, to be able to apply machine learning or AI to muddle through all the data quickly and give care givers the knowledge they need to be actionable at a moment's notice – that's the trick. That's really the value in IoT – being able to correlate all that information and give someone an action they can do with that data. We refer to it as prescriptive analytics."

A driving force behind the IoT ecosystem project? Statistics show seniors are living longer but tend to suffer from two or more chronic illnesses. With a declining population of doctors specializing in geriatrics and a rapidly inclining population of seniors, Craig says, it's a perfect storm. Hence, it's the perfect time to build the IoT ecosystem, with its state-of-the-art

sensors and prescriptive analytic capabilities designed to detect seniors' health issues before hospitalization is required.

The impact of the new IoT ecosystem will eventually be felt far beyond Maple Knoll Communities, Craig predicts. "We're always thinking globally. Maple Knoll is a great place to try things before we roll them out on a larger scale."

RoundTower is located at 5905 E. Galbraith Road, Third Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45236. For more information, visit www.roundtower.com.

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