Moving Beyond: The Impact of "Smart" on Seniors

We've seen the commercials for seniors who require simplified technology gadgets to keep in touch with their families – especially now when they are facing extended periods of time social distancing due to COVID-19. However, these ads do not correctly capture the fact that seniors are embracing technology more than ever. In fact, according to data from AARP's recent survey, adults over 50 are adopting smartphones, wearables, home assistants and smart home technology at close to the same rate as adults who are 18-49.

Why is this the case? Smart technologies, along with personal devices and entertainment solutions, are providing greater convenience for this generation. And the recent pandemic has only further emphasized the importance of these smart technologies for both health and communication purposes. Many senior living facilities, including nursing homes and 55+ communities who have been secluded from the outside community, are now looking to expand their high-performance Internet to handle the influx of smart devices being online, in order to better communicate with residents and for telehealth appointments.

With telehealth services becoming a routine part of healthcare, the need for a strong network to handle multiple smart devices is critical – especially in nursing homes where some residents require specialized care. From single-family homes to senior housing and multifamily communities, it is important to choose the right service partner that can provide the reliability and scalability of services needed for these types of technologies.

According to a recent Xfinity Communities survey, this age group rates technology available in their homes as being more important than all other age groups. This is directly correlated to how much this demographic values independent living. Smart technologies allow seniors to maintain a sense of independence and security for a longer period. And it goes beyond just smart home or community devices. On the entertainment side, advancements such as voice remotes also simplify the lives of seniors whether they are living by themselves or in a community setting.

Smart home and community technologies allow seniors to have increased convenience and peace of mind. Whether it is a device to monitor against water leaks to the management of door locks, lights or the thermostats, smart technologies will only continue to become more popular among older adults.

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