



United
HOMECARE



A V U S C o n n e c t T e c h P a l s

Engaging our community's future leaders.



01. *Shawn's Story*

Conceived by high school student and award-winning Founder, Shawn Martinez, to help his grandfathers after the passing of his grandmothers when he noticed the negative impact their absence had on his grandfathers' lives as they became isolated, lonely, and depressed. When COVID-19 came and they were forced to socially distance, he noticed his grandfathers; loneliness and depression worsened. Shawn engaged his classmates and United HomeCare to help isolated seniors. United Way of Miami honored Shawn with the Outstanding Youth Award for his work with the non-profit organization United HomeCare on the AVUS volunteer platform connecting youth with older adults to address isolation and loneliness in older adults, naming it after his grandfather.





AVUS Connect Founder, Shawn Martinez, was awarded the 2022 Quality Senior Living Award for Public Service for his many accomplishments, among them AVUS Connect, an intergenerational volunteer program. The Quality Senior Living Awards recognizes individuals and organizations whose efforts have improved the quality of life of older Floridians. The awards were presented on August 23, 2022 by the Florida Council on Aging, Florida Power & Light, State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Through personal loss, Shawn was inspired by a call to action to address isolation and depression among older adults.



02. About AVUS Connect

What is AVUS? Avus is the Latin noun for "Grandfather" ("Abuelo" in Spanish). AVUS Connect is a student-led Intergenerational Senior Assurance Program designed to address loneliness, social isolation and depression among older adults.



Friends for Seniors

Do you love meeting new people? Do you see others as potential friends, instead of strangers? We offer volunteer service hours for making friends with seniors!

[Read More >](#)



Virtual Opportunities

You can help elderly and disabled adults living in isolation through weekly communication after school or on the weekend through phone calls or video chat.

[Read More >](#)



Volunteer Testimonials

Wonder what volunteering with AVUS Connect is like? Our high school student volunteers would love to share their stories with you!

[Read More >](#)

Helping isolated seniors connect to their communities

***AVUS Connect: Engaging our community's future leaders through
Intergenerational conversations and life experiences***



03.

Icebreakers that Spark Simple Conversation

Students share about themselves and engage older adults to share about themselves too reflecting on life's experiences getting to know the older adult and sharing similar interests (family, sports, music, movies, food, reading, games, hobbies, writing)..

Students collaborate with mentors and collaborate under United HomeCare AVUS Connect's "Senior Assurance Umbrella."

"A person's name is the sweetest sound they hear."--Dale Carnegie

04. Community Outreach



In 2021 and 2022, UHC through AVUS Connect in partnership with Florida Council on Aging and Florida Power & Light and more than 11 partner collaborators delivered a total of 4,975 hurricane meal kits containing 15,126 hurricane shelf stable meals to 1,725 seniors across over 17 underserved communities throughout Miami-Dade County, Florida.



05. Community Impact

Underserved Communities Reached

AVUS volunteers and partner collaborators helped UHC reach over 17 of Miami-Dade County's most underserved communities including Liberty City-Biscayne Court, Little Haiti-Sant La Community, Notre Dame Church, Hialeah Ashley Plaza, Coconut Grove - West Grove Stirrup Center and Macadeonia Baptist Church, Cutler Ridge, Homestead, Miami Gardens, Carol City, Opa Locka, Allapattah, Florida City and surrounding communities.

17+

Seniors Served

From 2021 to 2022, UHC AVUS Volunteers distributed hurricane meal kits to 1,725 seniors 60+ across 17+ underserved communities throughout Miami-Dade County.

1,725

Hurricane Meals Distributed

From 2021 to 2022, UHC AVUS Volunteers helped package and distribute 4,975 hurricane meal kits containing 15,126 meals preparing seniors for hurricane season.

15,126



2021 - 2022 Partner Collaborators: Florida Council on Aging, Florida Power & Light, Florida Memorial University, H.O.P.E. Helping Other People Every Day, Thelma Gibson Health Initiative, Bridge to Hope. Commissioners Rene Garcia and Keon Hardemon.

06. *Intergenerational Volunteer Program*



AVUS Connect

GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER FOR OLDER ADULTS

WE CARE. WE GIVE. WE INSPIRE.

www.unitedhomecare.com / 305.716.0710 / CustomerCare@unitedhomecare.com

An Intergenerational Volunteer Program that brings younger and older generations together and engages our community's future leaders on behalf of older adult causes.

AVUS Connect began as a United HomeCare (Corporate Sponsor) and Belen Jesuit Preparatory (School) collaboration and was expanded to include other students from local high schools, college students, adult volunteers--all under the umbrella of the Volunteer Department of United HomeCare.

**We Care. We Give.
We Inspire.**

07.

**AVUS
CONNECT** 
College Students Volunteer
with United HomeCare

Become a friend.
Help alleviate isolation &
loneliness in elders

You choose: Virtually, by
phone, in-person or hybrid



AVUS TECH PALS

Empowering and Connecting
older adults to the communities
in which they live.



Visit us online:
avusconnect.org

Call today!
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08. Awarded National Community Care Corps Grant



For Immediate Release: September 7, 2022, Miami, Florida--United HomeCare's AVUS Connect - AVUS Tech Pals model was selected to receive a **Community Care Corps grant**, a national program created to support local programs using volunteers. This unprecedented program is a momentous leap forward in facilitating older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers throughout Miami-Dade County, Florida, with much-needed non medical assistance to remain living in their homes.

"We are pleased to make this award to United HomeCare. Their excellent volunteer model, AVUS Connect - AVUS Tech Pals, was chosen over other outstanding programs across the country," said Paul Weiss, President of the **OASIS Institute which administers Community Care Corps.** United HomeCare's aid will benefit countless local individuals and families, generating a lasting impact on those served, as well as the volunteers serving our community.

Tens of millions of Americans are in critical need of assistance with simple household tasks, daily errands, and transportation. Many also need increased companionship to avert the devastating effects of isolation. The support is vital for individuals to maintain the ability to live independently.