



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **WISE & HEALTHY AGING RECEIVES “CREATING AGING FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES” CONTINUATION GRANT**

*Archstone Foundation Awards \$50,000 to Expand Successful WISE Connections Program*

**SANTA MONICA (October 11, 2013)** – Two years ago, with the help of a generous start-up grant from a California-based foundation, WISE & Healthy Aging launched a unique program called WISE Connections to support seniors’ ability to remain living in their homes well into their later years.

Now, in recognition of WISE Connections’ continued success, the same foundation, the Archstone Foundation, a Long Beach-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to prepare society for the growing needs of an aging society, has awarded WISE & Healthy Aging an additional \$50,000 to further support the WISE Connections program, announced WISE & Healthy Aging President and CEO Grace Cheng Braun.

The grant to WISE & Healthy Aging is one of 11 the Foundation awarded to mainly California organizations under its “Creating Aging Friendly Communities through the Expansion of Villages Continuation” funding opportunity. “With these grants, the Archstone Foundation deepens its commitment to serve older adults,” said President and CEO Joseph F. Prevratil, JD. “The Foundation believes that the Village Movement, with its flexible models, will prove to be an effective vehicle for increasing the quality of life for older adults living independently in their community.”

The Village model or concept that Prevratil references started in 2000 in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston, Mass. It arose from residents’ desire to reside in their own homes while being able to access services that address their needs related to aging. Since then, the village model has been replicated around the country with more than 120 communities actively engaged in developing “Village” associations.

WISE Connections, based on this Village model, is a nonprofit, membership-based community program that supports aging in place — that is, living independently in one’s own home — for adults 50 and older in the greater Los Angeles area. The annual membership fee provides a concierge level, consumer-driven, personalized program of services that includes transportation coordination for social gatherings as well as support with grocery shopping, medical visits and other errands. Membership also includes reliable referrals to vetted businesses locally, such as plumbers, electricians and other household service providers. WISE Connections volunteers or staff can even be present in the member’s home during visits from these providers. “The social events and cultural outings that are held monthly are very popular,” adds Cheng Braun. And a monthly newsletter keeps everyone well connected.

Over the next year, the Archstone Foundation grant will make possible the further expansion of WISE Connections with Los Angeles Westside communities, as well as to enrich the program already established in the four communities of Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, and Marina-Venice, according to Cheng Braun.

“The WISE & Healthy Aging mission is to support older adults who wish to remain in their home by enhancing their independence, dignity and quality of life through innovative services like WISE Connections. The generous

continuation grant from the Archstone Foundation enables us to make that possible for even more seniors in an ever-wider geographic area, and we are very grateful," Cheng Braun said.

For more information about WISE Connections, please call (310) 829-5699 or send an e-mail to [info@wiseconnections.net](mailto:info@wiseconnections.net). WISE Connections has also been featured in the Public Broadcasting Service's programming on innovations in healthy aging. To learn more about the many other services that WISE & Healthy Aging provides, please call (310) 394-9871 or go to [www.wiseandhealthyaging.org](http://www.wiseandhealthyaging.org).

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**WISE & Healthy Aging** is the result of the 2007 merger of WISE Senior Services and Center for Healthy Aging. With a combined 70 years' experience serving older adults, the nonprofit, social services organization brings together a synergy of services, information, programs and support for older adults, caregivers of the elderly and the professionals who work with them. For more information, call (310) 394-9871 or visit [www.wiseandhealthyaging.org](http://www.wiseandhealthyaging.org)

Established in 1986, **Archstone Foundation** is a private, non-profit foundation whose mission is to prepare society for the growing needs of an aging society. Under the leadership of president and CEO Joseph F. Prevratil, JD, Archstone grants up to \$5 million annually, primarily in Southern California. For more information, visit [www.archstone.org](http://www.archstone.org)