



The Eden Registry



The Eden Registry honors organizations committed to the challenging work of transforming traditional care practices into an approach that puts the person first. Person-directed care is structured around the unique needs, preferences, and desires of the individual benefitting from care. Through this approach, decisions and actions around care honor the voices and choices of care recipients and those working most closely with them.

Core person-directed values include choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living. The Eden Alternative promotes these values using a set of principles and training strategies designed to de-institutionalize and transform the culture of care wherever Elders live. Organizations like ours, that are implementing the Eden Alternative Philosophy, empower Elders and their care partners to eliminate loneliness, helplessness, and boredom for everyone on the care partner team. A care partner team includes the Elder herself and all of the people who collaborate with her to support her success. Together, these Elders, employees, and family members work collaboratively to place decision-making in the hands of the Elders or those

closest to them. Currently, there are hundreds of Eden Registry Members in the U.S. and abroad, including organizations in Europe, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

It Can Be Different



We have chosen to join the Eden Registry because it honors and supports our efforts to create a life worth living for those we serve. As a member of the Eden Registry, we are committed to creating a warm, vibrant, life-affirming care environment, where each person matters and everyone has the opportunity to grow, regardless of their age or abilities. Our membership in the Eden Registry connects us with other professionals and providers committed to person-directed care. This vast network helps us continue to grow by providing access to the latest information, techniques, and best practices in Eldercare. With The Eden Alternative, our journey is unique and never-ending.

What You Might Notice



When you experience an organization that embraces the Eden Alternative Philosophy, you will notice that something feels different, although you might not be able to describe it. What you are feeling is love. Love matters and flourishes in this approach to care through the strong relationships we nurture. What will stand out to you is that people are engaged in life. There is a light in their eyes that shows their lives have purpose and that they feel empowered and supported through caring connections and interactions.

You will also experience the power of care partnership. We promote a culture of meaningful care that does not see the needs of caregivers as separate from the needs of care receivers, but instead upholds the well-being of the entire care relationship. We believe that opportunities to give, as well as receive, are alive in every moment. Our job is to tap these opportunities and offer everyone the chance to contribute to daily life in meaningful ways. Just as it is in a family, close relationships are grown when Elders and their care partners define the rhythm of daily life together, such

as how to spend time together, what to improve, and when to celebrate.

Our priority is creating well-being for all care partners on the team by strengthening their sense of identity and autonomy, ensuring security, enhancing connectedness (with others, the community and their surroundings), driving meaning deeply into daily life experiences, promoting ongoing growth by building on strengths, and taking time to experience moments of joy as they come.

As an Eden Registry Member, our goal is create a Human Habitat, where different species come together in empowering ways, eager and able to thrive, not just survive. We achieve this by following The Eden Alternative's Path to Mastery™, a roadmap that guides our development as an organization committed to person-directed care. You can witness our progress by asking which Milestone on the Path to Mastery we are exploring. We are happy to share our story with you — our care partner — and welcome your feedback and suggestions, as we continue to grow. Creating a culture of meaningful care is a journey, not just a destination. Your support is the key to our success. Together, we are stronger....



The philosophy and work of The Eden Alternative is guided by Ten Principles:

1 The three plagues of loneliness, helplessness, and boredom account for the bulk of suffering among our Elders.

2 An Elder-centered community commits to creating a human habitat where life revolves around close and continuing contact with plants, animals, and children. It is these relationships that provide the young and old alike with a pathway to a life worth living.

3 Loving companionship is the antidote to loneliness. Elders deserve easy access to human and animal companionship.

4 An Elder-centered community creates opportunity to give as well as receive care. This is the antidote to helplessness.

5 An Elder-centered community imbues daily life with variety and spontaneity by creating an environment in which unexpected and unpredictable interactions and happenings can take place. This is the antidote to boredom.

6 Meaningless activity corrodes the human spirit. The opportunity to do things that we find meaningful is essential to human health.

7 Medical treatment should be the servant of genuine human caring, never its master.

8 An Elder-centered community honors its Elders by de-emphasizing top-down bureaucratic authority, seeking instead to place the maximum possible decision-making authority into the hands of the Elders or into the hands of those closest to them.

9 Creating an Elder-centered community is a never-ending process. Human growth must never be separated from human life.

10 Wise leadership is the lifeblood of any struggle against the three plagues. For it, there can be no substitute.

Doctor, I am so lonely.

Dr. Bill Thomas, Co-founder of The Eden Alternative® will never forget the words of an Elder, or the beautiful blue eyes that stared up at him, as she reached up to draw him near and whisper, “Doctor, I am so lonely.”

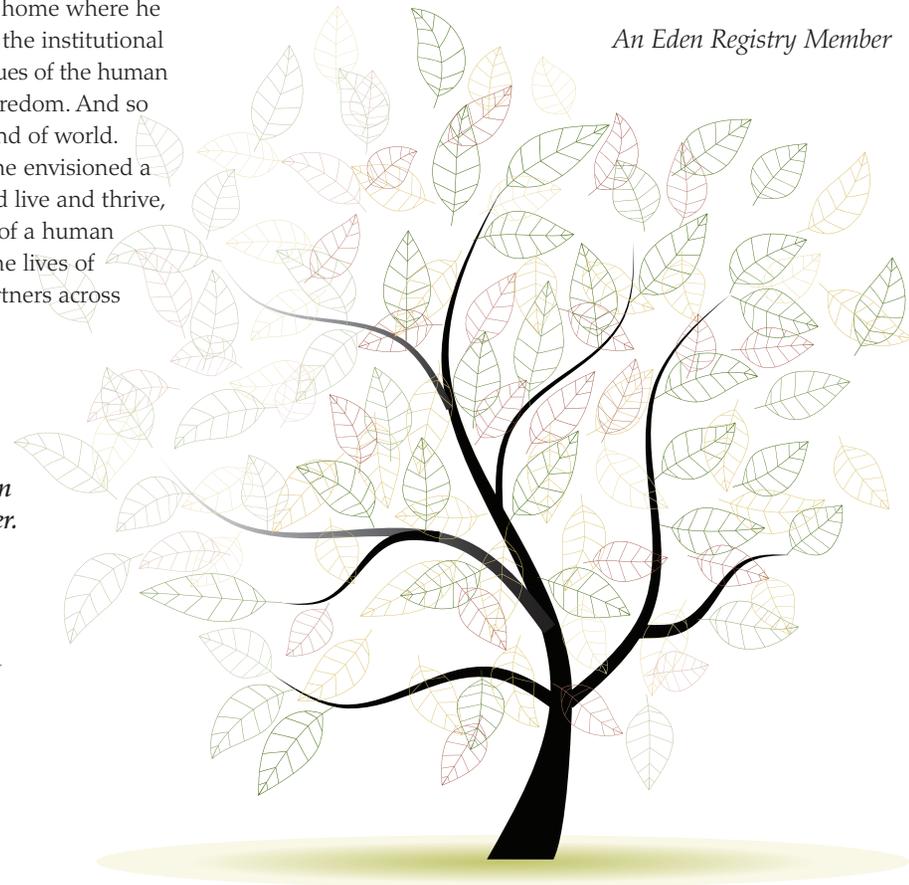
A Harvard-educated physician and board certified geriatrician, Dr. Thomas searched his medical texts and found nothing to heal loneliness. This inspired him to watch and listen to life in the nursing home where he worked. Over time, he witnessed that the institutional model of care breeds three deadly plagues of the human spirit: loneliness, helplessness, and boredom. And so he began to think about a different kind of world. Working with his wife, Jude Thomas, he envisioned a care environments where people could live and thrive, not just wait to die. Soon, this vision of a human habitat began to unfold and change the lives of thousands of Elders and their care partners across the country and beyond.

Learn more at www.edenalt.org.

We are proud to be an Eden Registry Member.



An Eden Registry Member



It can be different.

The Eden Alternative believes that Elderhood is a period of continued growth and development, rather than decline.