



**Woodrow Wilson
Rehabilitation Center**
The Premier Rehabilitation Community
Serving People with Disabilities

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WWRC Smart Home is the first of its kind in Virginia

Fishersville, VA – The Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center is the site of Virginia’s first ever Smart Home specifically designed for people with brain injury. The Home is located on the WWRC campus and is the realization of a concept being developed by occupational therapy professor Tony Gentry of Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Home incorporates many commercially available cognitive aid devices under one roof in a coordinated manner to facilitate people with brain injury being able to live more independently. It features such things as alarm sensors, motion detectors, automated lighting, and a computer control center.

Dr. Gentry, well known for his pioneering working in adapting handheld computers for people with brain injury, outfitted the Home under a grant from the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative. A transitional living cottage at WWRC was chosen in order to collect information from residents who typically live in the cottage for one or two weeks as part of their rehabilitation. The occupational therapy department at WWRC has played a key role in this project, training residents to utilize the technology, helping them make use of it day-to-day and providing important recommendations about how to make the smart home better.

Dr. Gentry and WWRC’s Occupational Therapy Department will be hosting an Open House at the Smart Home on April 29, 2009 from 11 AM to 2 PM for interested professionals, community groups and members of the news gathering community.

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center is the first state-owned and operated comprehensive rehabilitation center in the country. WWRC provides comprehensive medical, assistive technology and vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities to help them gain increased independence and employment. WWRC is a division of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

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