Collaborative Partnerships: from Prototype to Production
Developing the Agefully App to Support the Health and Well-Being of Aging Adults

Project Goal:
With the goal of improving older adults’ quality of life, the UW-Madison School of Nursing’s Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) began developing an evidence-based guidance, support and planning tool for family caregivers of older adults.

Challenge:
As the subject matter experts, CARE had the knowledge to populate the app with content, but only some of the technical expertise required to develop it. They needed a partner with a flexible, collaborative approach, cutting-edge technical expertise, and a shared commitment to the Wisconsin Idea. In addition, the partner had to blend with the team and deliver quality work within a short timeline. The collaborative team had to produce rapid iterations of design and coding in response to small-scale usability tests.

Solution:
CARE partnered with Teaching & Research Application Development (TRAD) to round out their team. The two partners used an iterative process that included multiple communication touchpoints to ensure the prototype was developed rapidly and incorporated a wide range of feedback.

Successes:
• Completed five rounds of usability testing, which included 33 family caregivers
• Delivered to pilot group of 33 participants in August 2017, eight months after project kick-off
• Enthusiastic and robust feedback at every stage led to continual and significant improvements

Next Steps:
• Pilot phase 2 slated for May
• Potential for partnering with national organization

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