



## ERIN BONITTO AND THOM WRIGHT INVITED TO PRESENT AT IAHSA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON

(June 24, 2009)

[Erin Bonitto](#), founder of [Gemini Consulting](#) of Cold Spring, Minnesota and Thom Wright, President of Gemini Life Enrichment Institute for Dementia have been selected to present at the 8<sup>th</sup> international conference of the International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (IAHSA). The conference will take place in London from July 19-22, 2009 and offer three days of education and networking opportunities for professionals from across the world. Erin and Thom will be presenting a workshop entitled “Alzheimer’s Lounge: Interdisciplinary Program for the Real World” on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, from 2:00 – 3:30pm. This workshop will show hands-on examples of the strength-based stations, which serve as the key element of their Alzheimer Lounge program.

### The Alzheimer Lounge Program

Erin Bonitto and her husband, Chris, developed this life-enriching program to encourage residents with Alzheimer’s and dementia to pursue opportunities that offer extended moments of genuine pleasure, purpose and peace. Strength-based stations feature a creative range of authentic props and activity supplies that are known to engage residents with dementia. Residents are invited to stations that are appropriate for their interests and abilities and participate in activities at each station either individually or in a very small group. Each of the hundreds of possible stations reflects the common strengths that remain long into the Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. The impact this program has on resident outcomes as well as resident, family and team member satisfaction is measurable and meaningful. Real-world results from thirteen senior communities will be shared during Erin and Thom’s session.

About Gemini Life Enrichment Institute for Dementia. GLE Institute for Dementia was founded as a natural extension of the Gemini Consulting mission. The Institute provides on-going education and training for senior service providers, government agencies, educational institutions and individual organizations seeking a better way to serve people with dementia. While focused on Gemini’s Life Enrichment Systems, which include the *Alzheimer’s Lounge*, *Therapeutic Small Groups*, *Soft Sensory Approaches*, and *Buddies Forever Dementia Coaching*, the Institute is also immersed in academic and clinical research.

### The IAHSA Workshop

The typical classroom environment will be transformed with strength-based life enrichment stations set up for attendee observation and hands-on participation in the learning process. Thom and Erin will role-play scenarios that will resonate with attendees’ real world experiences in serving residents with Alzheimer’s and dementia. Attendees will learn about, observe and practice specific research-based engagement techniques as Thom and Erin break down the four Lounge steps to success. For additional information, please contact Erin at (320) 685-7265 or visit [www.gemini-consulting.org](http://www.gemini-consulting.org) for more details.

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