

Scott McQuinn **NOMINATION**



Why McKnight's Should Consider This Nominee for the Thought Leadership Category

For almost four decades, Scott McQuinn has shaped the future of senior living through purpose-driven leadership, innovation, and compassion. As President and CEO of Life Enriching Communities (LEC), he has guided the organization from a single campus in Cincinnati's College Hill into a statewide network of six vibrant senior life plan communities in Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland—earning recognition as one of the top 50 not-for-profit senior life plan organizations in the nation. (as ranked by LeadingAge Ziegler 200)

Scott's leadership philosophy is rooted in the belief that aging well is about thriving. He envisions senior living communities as places of growth, connection, and purpose—where older adults can live independently while benefiting from the support of a caring, mission-centered organization. Under his guidance, LEC has created environments that blend innovation and compassion, advancing the industry standard for quality, dignity, and holistic well-being.

Scott's influence extends beyond the organization's walls. Through partnerships, pilot programs, and thought leadership, he continually seeks new ways to elevate the resident experience.



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Among these innovations are a collaboration with The Ohio State University to study how robotic pets can support caregivers of individuals with dementia, the introduction of non-invasive fall detection technology, and comprehensive dementia education programs for all associates. These initiatives reflect Scott's ongoing pursuit of technology and training that enhance independence and safety for residents.

His belief in community extends to LEC associates. Scott emphasizes that residents, families, and employees form an extended family united by shared values. His leadership philosophy reflects a simple truth: when associates are empowered to do their best work, residents experience their best quality of life. That human-centered philosophy underpins every decision, from employee development to campus growth.

Under Scott's leadership, LEC celebrated its 125th Anniversary with strong growth across campuses, groundbreaking projects like Trillium at Twin Lakes, and statewide recognition for excellence, including LEC's Wesley Woods achieving a top 96.02 resident satisfaction score—the highest in Columbus. Beyond these achievements, Scott models humility, mission-driven focus, and integrity that inspire others across the field.

In short, Scott embodies what McKnight's seeks in a Thought Leader. McKnight's should consider Scott McQuinn for the Thought Leadership Award because he exemplifies what the category stands for: innovation guided by compassion, strategy rooted in mission, and leadership that lifts an entire profession. His influence is not only seen in the communities he's built—but in the lives he's enriched and the example he continues to set for the next generation of leaders in aging services.





What Makes Scott a Thought Leader?

Scott McQuinn is a visionary redefining the philosophy of aging. His thought leadership is grounded in a belief that senior living must be proactive, creating environments that promote independence, social connection, and lifelong purpose. He challenges traditional notions of “care” by reframing it as support that empowers, not assistance that limits.

Through this lens, Scott has championed a series of forward-thinking initiatives at Life Enriching Communities (LEC). He has overseen the development of communities designed to nurture both body and spirit, implemented wellness programs that integrate physical, cognitive, and emotional health, and fostered a culture where associates and residents alike feel they are part of something larger—a family bound by purpose.

Scott’s innovative spirit is exemplified by programs such as:

- A national research partnership with The Ohio State University to explore how robotic pets can assist dementia caregivers.
- The introduction of sensor technology that provides early alerts for falls or changes in residents’ daily patterns.
- Comprehensive dementia training that will equip every associate with the knowledge to support residents living with cognitive loss.

Together, these initiatives reflect his belief that technology and human compassion must coexist to create the most effective and empathetic care environments.



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Equally important, Scott’s thought leadership extends to the emotional and social aspects of senior living. He recognizes that shared experiences and common life journeys naturally foster strong social bonds. His leadership ensures that each LEC community provides opportunities for connection, meaning, and mutual support—essentials for both longevity and happiness.

Scott leads with humility and vision, reminding others that “mission is both the starting and ending point of every discussion.” His ideas resonate because they balance innovation with heart, ambition with service, and data with humanity. In doing so, he is helping to shape a new narrative for aging—one where seniors, families, and associates all thrive together.

Scott’s Wider Commitment to the Industry

Scott McQuinn’s impact reaches far beyond Life Enriching Communities. His dedication to advancing senior living and service organizations nationally is demonstrated through decades of industry leadership, board service, and professional mentorship.

Scott is a founding board member and two-time chair of Link-age, an alliance of more than 1,000 senior living and services organizations across 39 states. Through Link-age, he has helped foster collaboration, research, and shared innovation among senior living and service providers committed to excellence and continuous improvement. Link-age has since grown into three distinct groups that include group purchasing, market research, and an investment arm for healthcare innovation and aging. His leadership in this alliance underscores his belief that aging services are stronger when organizations learn from and uplift one another





As a longstanding member of Vistage Worldwide, the world's largest CEO peer advisory organization, Scott has contributed insights and best practices to peers across sectors. His leadership style—rooted in humility, faith, and mission—has earned respect from colleagues who seek his perspective on balancing operational growth with cultural integrity.

Scott's commitment also extends to global service. Since 2008, he has served on the Board of Directors for Back2Back Ministries, an international orphan care ministry serving thousands of children across eight countries. This role reflects his belief in purpose-driven leadership that transcends business, emphasizing compassion and care for all generations.

Throughout his career, Scott has prioritized the growth of others, fostering collaboration and encouraging future leaders to embrace mission-driven service. He invests time in developing future executives, ensuring that the next generation is prepared to lead with both competence and conscience. Many of LEC's current leaders thrive from Scott's encouragement, strategic guidance, and steadfast focus on mission alignment.

His leadership has been recognized by the Cincinnati Business Courier's Top 40 Under 40 Award and Venue and Lead Magazine's Health Care Leadership Award. At every level, Scott unites people around shared purpose—whether in boardrooms, ministries, or communities of older adults.

Scott's contributions reflect not only professional excellence but a calling to elevate senior living as a vocation of service, compassion, and continuous improvement. His influence within and beyond the industry exemplifies the collaborative, mission-centered leadership that McKnight's seeks to honor.





Anything Else the Judges Should Know

Few individuals so fully reflect the qualities of integrity, humility, and compassion as Scott McQuinn continues to do. His leadership philosophy is personal: “We are all part of one extended family—residents, families, and associates alike.” This guiding belief shapes the culture of Life Enriching Communities (LEC) and has created an environment where people truly feel they belong.

Scott frequently emphasizes that true success in senior living comes from relationships and meaning, not numbers or buildings, yet also that residents deserve to live in vibrant, up-to-date, and modern communities. Under his leadership, LEC has built communities where social connections flourish naturally. He understands that older adults thrive when they are surrounded by others who share common life experiences and when they can continue contributing to something larger than themselves. This vision has shaped LEC’s wellness programs, community design, and associate training initiatives—all focused on promoting engagement, purpose, and joy.

What sets Scott apart is his balance of strategic foresight and personal authenticity. He leads with the heart of a servant leader—one who still stops to talk with residents, attends staff recognition events, and personally thanks associates for living out the mission.

Scott’s influence also extends to his family and faith life. Married to his wife, Lea, since 1989, they have three adult children—Kyle, Tyler, and Tatiana—each living out their own callings with the same values of purpose and compassion that their parents embody. Scott’s personal life reflects the same balance of devotion and gratitude that defines his professional career.



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In an era where the senior living industry faces rapid change, Scott McQuinn stands as a steady voice of innovation grounded in humanity. He champions the idea that the goal of senior living is not simply to serve, but to enrich life itself.

McKnight's judges should know that Scott's influence is both measurable and meaningful: in the outcomes of his communities, the respect of his peers, and in the thousands of lives he has touched through a career defined by vision, integrity, and heart.