

These providers mastered tech to improve resident safety, workforce efficiency



Lois Bowers, Sept 21, 2026

Increasing workforce efficiency, as well as reducing resident falls, sleep deprivation and infections, are among the benefits of technology use highlighted in the second group of Gold-level trophy winners in the 2026 *McKnight's* Excellence in Technology Awards. Enhancing resident safety and dignity, and better support of individuals in their last days, are also among the benefits detailed in this flight of Gold medalists.

Across all 14 categories of the contest, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards were bestowed Sept. 16 as determined by an independent panel of 24 senior living and care stakeholders. Tech Award [finalists had been announced](#) in early August.

This article, the second of three looking at winners in the 16th annual contest. It details the Best in Show winner, as well as for those in four regular categories: Home Grown, Innovator of the Year, Keep It Super Simple (KISS), and Quality.

Quality

VNS Health and Netsmart won Gold in the Quality category, which puts the spotlight on the application of technology to improve the quality of care or services, for their entry, "HVLDL mortality risk dashboard."

The entrants said they undertook this project to address workforce constraints and help clinicians accurately identify when individuals in hospice care are entering their final days, ensuring more timely support. They reported that the project drove quality and care improvements, operational and financial gains, as well as scalability.

Hospice visits during a person's final days grew from the mid-30 percentage range to 61%, and the number of people receiving five or more weekly visits doubled. Additionally, transitions decreased, and Service Intensity Add-on reimbursements increased by 18%.

Integrated into the Netsmart's myUnity EHR, this tool is benefiting more than 1,740 patients nationally.

RiverSpring Living and Hocoma AG won Silver in the Quality category for their entry, "Next-generation rehabilitation with Armeo Power."

Others recognized in the Quality category:

- **Silver:** "Next-generation rehabilitation with Armeo Power," RiverSpring Living and Hocoma AG
- **Bronze:** "Zero falls with AI: A new benchmark in care," Helpany and United Zion Retirement Community
- **Other finalists:** "BHI turns fraud prevention into high-engagement resident programming," The Smarter Service, Trend Micro and BHI Senior Living Communities; "Transforming data into 5-star quality outcomes," Concept Rehab / Engage Consulting and The Caring Place Healthcare Group; "Protecting comfort care through passive fall protection," Elysian Fields of Red Wing and Viconic Fall Defense

Best in Show

The Jewish Home, based in Rochester, NY, captured Best in Show for an entry titled "Building more with less through AI development." The winner was chosen by *McKnight's* organizers out of all of the top medalists this year for being the entry that stood out for its combination of strategic thinking, innovative delivery and needle-moving results.

This entry detailed how The Jewish Home leveraged artificial intelligence-driven engineering tools to multiply the output of a 1.2 full-time equivalent-employee IT team to be able to maintain 40 applications. By deploying agentic tools such as Cursor and Claude Code, they achieved the output of a 30-person team.

The impressive accomplishments included:

- Building an Account Assist product in three days to eliminate an \$8,000 annual software fee
- Logging more than 111,000 time-stamped nursing rounds for 96 beds via Smart Rounds
- Reducing ETL (extract, transform and load, a data integration process) development times to one-tenth of the previous, and
- Cutting routine app maintenance from a full week to two hours

Home Grown

Vintage Faire Nursing and Rehabilitation Center won Silver in the Home Grown category for its entry, "Mobility as a vital sign: A surveillance system."

The Jewish Home's Best in Show award-winning entry was submitted in the Home Grown category, where it won the Gold, setting the stage for its overall top award. The Home Grown category celebrates senior living and care operators that have independently developed and implemented a technology-driven improvement that enhances care or services and/or the bottom line.

Others recognized in the Home Grown category:

- **Silver:** “Mobility as a vital sign: A surveillance system,” Vintage Faire Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- **Bronze:** “Retention Radar – Redefining retention with AI-powered insights,” LCS
- **Other finalists:** “Advancing care through home-grown AI solutions,” Signature HealthCare; “BetterConversations: VoiceAI that builds emotional intelligence,” Saber Healthcare Group and Spotcheck; and “Community Connect,” Connect Senior Services and Hankins Consulting

Innovator of the Year

etectRx, EdenHill Communities, LifeScape, Trilogy Health Services, Black Hills Works and The Village at Gainesville won Gold in the Innovator of the Year category for an entry titled “Intelligent incontinence management and impact on staff / residents.”

etectRx, EdenHill Communities, LifeScape, Trilogy Health Services, Black Hills Works and The Village at Gainesville combined to create the Gold-winning entry in the Innovator of the Year category. The category recognizes technological innovations that positively affected senior living and care operators’ provision of care, services and/or the bottom line, for an entry titled “Intelligent incontinence management and impact on staff / residents.”

Incontinence is pervasive among older adults in long-term care. It’s also problematic, causing falls, sleep deprivation and infections. etectRx’s eBrief Intelligent Incontinence Monitoring System uses a sensor that can be applied to any incontinent brief. Results among the range of providers in the entry included decreases in falls, skin breakdowns and urinary tract infections. Operational improvements ranged from decreases in linen use, less time cleaning furniture and floor, and reclaimed certified nursing assistant time.

Others honored in the Innovator of the Year category:

- **Silver:** “Retention Radar – Redefining retention with AI-powered insights,” LCS
- **Bronze:** “Ignite + Exacare ai: AI-powered admissions transformation,” exacare ai and Ignite Medical Resorts
- **Other finalists:** “Closing the digital gap in aging,” The Jewish Home and the Rochester Institute of Technology; “Redefining workforce innovation in senior care,” Incite Workforce Solutions powered by SnapCare, Incite Strategic Partners and Marquis Companies; “From watching to following through with AI,” CobiCare.AI and My Parents Paradise Assisted Living

Keep It Super Simple (KISS)

Tenera Care and Dublin Glenn Memory Care / Continental Senior Communities earned Gold in the Keep It Super Simple category for their entry, “How real-time visibility improved overnight safety and proactive care.”

Tenera Care and Dublin Glenn Memory Care / Continental Senior Communities earned Gold in the Keep It Super Simple category, which celebrates simple but effective applications of technology that improved the provision of care and/or services and/or operations, for their entry, “How real-time visibility improved overnight safety and proactive care.”

Dublin Glenn Memory Care in suburban Columbus, OH, part of Continental Senior Communities, partnered with Tenera Care to enhance visibility into resident needs and drive safety improvements through wearable-based real-time location system and dynamic geofencing technology.

By continuously and automatically analyzing movement patterns, staff members were able to make proactive interventions without creating more documentation demands. The project resulted in a 50% reduction in overnight falls, making a difference for residents who often cannot communicate when something is wrong and giving staff members the power to identify changes in condition before they became crises.

Others recognized in the KISS category:

- **Silver:** “One platform. Better staffing decisions,” Incite Workforce Solutions powered by SnapCare, Incite Strategic Partners
- **Bronze:** “Increased patient access with simpler documentation solutions,” Apricot Health and Choice Health at Home
- **Other finalists:** “Simplifying admissions at scale,” MatrixCare and Advanced Health Care; “Putting down the pencil: QAPI in one place,” CareAscendium, Plainview Healthcare and Angie Hurley; “Improve staff efficiency and care delivery,” Edgewood Healthcare / Meadow Wind, CarePredict and ALIS

Find an article featuring the first flight of 2026 category winners [here](#). All winners are listed [here](#).

The *McKnight's* Tech Awards + Summit is a joint initiative of *McKnight's Senior Living*, *McKnight's Long-Term Care News* and *McKnight's Home Care*.

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