

# TECHNOLOGY IN OUR LIVES

## Older Americans Go Online To Stay Connected With Their Families

(NAPSA)—The number of older Americans connected to the Internet is growing every year, and more than ever, they are relying on e-mail to keep in touch with their loved ones this season. Today, older Americans are finding that exchanging e-mail and surfing the Web can greatly improve their quality of life.

According to a recent survey conducted by Microsoft, most computer users over the age of 55 report that using the Internet makes it easier to stay in touch with their family through e-mail, chatting and sharing pictures online. Nearly 90 percent of those surveyed say that they are more in touch with family and friends and that their overall communications have increased thanks to the Internet.

However, many older Americans have long considered using technology a daunting task. For a generation that did not grow up using technology at school or at work, getting online is not always an easy proposition. Giving a parent or grandparent Internet access as a gift requires a device that is easy to use and inexpensive.

For people who are looking to give their parents or grandparents the gift of the Internet, the best revelation could be MSN® TV service from Microsoft. This Internet device offers users Internet access on the television sets they already have, and is designed to be easy and simple to use.

“Compared to other technologies, the MSN TV service is used more by Internet newcomers and older Americans,” said Sam Klepper, general manager, MSN TV. “This group has been historically intimidated by technology, but is finding the device and service easy to use and understand.”

MSN TV users can easily receive and view e-mail photos of grandkids, children and family



**Set-top Internet devices make it easy and inexpensive for seniors to stay in touch with family.**

members, research their favorite recipes or vacation destinations, purchase products online or even participate in online auctions. It uses a small set-top Internet receiver available from RCA for less than \$100. The receiver connects easily to a television set and phone line, allowing users to quickly access the Internet without any computer skills. Users can get online within minutes from the comfort of their living room and enjoy many of the benefits of the Internet from e-mail to surfing the Web.

“Consumer electronics companies and Web sites, such as Senior Net.org, are developing more and more products and services that cater to older Americans,” said Ann Wrixon, CEO and president of SeniorNet. “With MSN TV service, seniors can now send e-mail or instant messages, visit Web sites, shop online, and join chat rooms and newsgroups to explore a wide range of interests.”

The RCA RM2100 Internet Receiver costs \$99 and is available at major technology retailers nationwide. No additional hardware or software is required, but a monthly subscription plan is required. To check local access, call (800) 469-3288. Further information can be found online at [www.msntv.com](http://www.msntv.com).