

## JUSTUS M. DECHER

There is an innate intersection between health care and technology that will allow medical providers of care to enhance access to service while increasing quality for patients. With issues such as longer life spans, higher incidences of multiple chronic illnesses, and the baby boom generation putting immense pressure on the health care labor force, used appropriately, technology will help alleviate the shortage of health care workers in the face of the ever-growing needs of the population.

I am passionate about advocating for ways to continuously improve the means for providing care and supporting those people who have made caregiving their life's work.

With the need to do more with less, integrating technology into home health care systems will allow those professionals to focus on what's most important - their relationship with their patient!

Justus Decher, founder of MyVitalz, has an extensive technological background. As a key part of his history, Justus was part of the team that created the Land Warrior for the United States Army. In February 2010, he underwent a quadruple bypass, which changed his life and perspective on health care. Justus realized that many of his Emergency Room visits could have been prevented with the proper tools to monitor his health. "They say that necessity is the mother of invention," Decher said. In 2013, he and Jeff Banghart began developing MyVitalz. They have designed this to be a set of tools at home for chronically ill patients.

Both as a patient with a chronic health condition and as the primary caregiver for his wife, Justus has experienced the difficulties of maintaining a healthy life on his own. Because of these personal experiences, Justus applied his considerable technological skills (honed by working with the Department of Defense and several Silicon Valley tech companies) to home health tools that would provide a level of empowerment for patients and consistent reliable data for the medical community involved with their care. With the creation of MyVitalz, a telehealth / telemonitoring company, Justus has developed a system that allows patients to be more involved in their own health, and that provides immediate access of vital information to the health care providers working with each patient.

As a SME (subject matter expert) and lifelong technologist, and now as a devoted student of the issues facing those with chronic illnesses, Justus would be a tremendous asset to the Board of the Nebraska Home Care Association. His understanding of, and the ability to educate others on the enormous leaps technology is taking, combined with its' application to health care would be invaluable to the NHCA.

**“As a caregiver for my wife, and in dealing with home health care givers both personally and professionally, I would be honored to sit on the Board of the NHCA to continue the important work of this organization”.** – Justus M. Decher

