

Native American Heritage Month

A SALUTE TO THE PROFESSIONALS WHO SUPPORT THE TRIBES



Carol Bogda
Native American Family
Caregiver Coordinator
Oneida Aging & Disability Services

This month, during Native American Heritage Month, we salute those professionals who are dedicated to supporting caregivers in the tribal community. Carol Bogda is a Native American Family Caregiver Coordinator for the Oneida Aging & Disability Services, which provides home and community-based programs for disabled and elder clients. Carol is a member of the Oneida Tribe, which has more than 16,000 members, and has been in her position for 12 years. The reservation, in Brown and Outagamie Counties, covers over 65,000 acres.

Meeting the Needs of the Tribe

Carol supports families and caregivers with any needs a family may have. In addition to caregiver programs, she also supports the grandparent custody program, staying fit programs, shopping for seniors and providing one-on-one respite care relief.

“For those families struggling with dementia, respite care is typically when families come to me,” Carol said. “It becomes overwhelming when a loved one becomes to change – repeating questions, change of mood, sundowning – it’s things they haven’t faced before.”

Covid has had a major impact on the services Carol can provide to the tribe. Pre-covid, Carol was doing support groups and education. Her department is still closed, so Carol has pivoted to serving the Tribe in different ways, such as grocery shopping for families, so they stay out of stores, and providing respite care for caregivers. “Virtual programs aren’t very effective for our families,” Carol said. “Many elders don’t have internet, and aren’t familiar with using it.”

Carol is a resource for families dealing with dementia. She has led a team for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Green Bay for the last few years to promote health and awareness. Their team, “Kanikuliyo,” means good mind in the Oneida language.

Wisconsin has eleven federally recognized Native American Nations and Tribal communities. The Alzheimer’s Association Care and Support team supports these communities with education programs to increase awareness of dementia. We salute Carol Bogda this month for her dedication to serving tribal families.

