

Advocacy in Action

Marilyn Thiet, Mequon
Alzheimer's Congressional Team Member



Marilyn Thiet has been volunteering with Advocacy efforts for the Alzheimer's Association for the last year. Marilyn is an Alzheimer's Congressional Team member for U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin. Congressional team members participate in district meetings with their Member of Congress to keep them updated on our legislative priorities, and engage in other advocacy efforts throughout the year.

A Call to Advocacy

"We walked a difficult journey with my mom," Marilyn said. "She lived with vascular dementia for three years before losing her battle with the disease in 2010. For a full-time working caregiver, a huge challenge for me was finding a quality caregiver and a quality facility to care for her. Like many, the expense of 24/7 private care was cost-prohibitive for my mom and we were faced with struggling to find suitable facilities to handle the needs of someone on this journey."

"Over the years, I've donated to the Alzheimer's Association, stayed informed and followed updates," Marilyn said. "But during Covid, my work schedule changed due to the pandemic and I traveled less, opening up opportunities. I wanted to be more present in a volunteer capacity and I wanted to see more systemic changes; Advocacy provided the opportunity for me to do that."

"This is a devastating disease and getting involved with Advocacy is a way I can volunteer my time and see the impact," Marilyn said. "My professional experience relies on influencing people and implementing change, so I felt I had a lot to offer the mission. We need to do better as a society in caring for those on this journey. We need advocates to help bring about reform and help put an end to this disease, but more urgently, to provide quality care for families on this difficult journey."



"I would encourage others to get involved in Advocacy efforts," Marilyn said. "The Alzheimer's Association does a great job of guiding you every step of the way. Some may feel intimidated by Advocacy, but there is so much support and you're really joining a team, focused on one mission. Volunteering is flexible and can take up as much or as little of your time as you'd like it. I volunteered at the Walk to End Alzheimer's in the Advocacy tent this year and the team was right there helping me communicate our messages and key points. I'm looking forward to attending my first Wisconsin Advocacy Day in Madison in March!"



Join us
2023 Wisconsin Advocacy Day
Tuesday March 7, 2023 Madison
bit.ly/2023WIAdvocacy

