

**For Immediate Release**

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**NEW REPORT REVEALS IMPACT OF ALZHEIMER'S  
DISEASE ON CENTRAL OHIO**

**Columbus, OH, March 9, 2010** – There are 230,000 Ohioans living with Alzheimer's disease, a figure that is expected to rise by 25 percent by 2025, according to the Alzheimer's Association's *2010 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*.

The new report says that family members are providing care at home for about 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease. The report also reveals that more than 40 percent of family and other unpaid Alzheimer and dementia caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high, compared with 28 percent of caregivers of other older people. In 2009, 435,059 Alzheimer's caregivers in Ohio provided 495 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$5.6 billion.

Michelle Chippas, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association, Central Ohio Chapter, said, "The latest Facts and Figures report shows the significant impact of Alzheimer's disease – on the individual, the family, and state and federal government – and underscores the need for states to plan for the growing number and urgent service needs of families impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementia-related diseases."

**When this report was announced, Columbus residents Eugene Fields and his wife Carol represented the Central Ohio Chapter at the Alzheimer's Association's Annual Summit on Alzheimer's held March 7 to 9<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. Speaking first hand as his wife's caregiver since 2006, Eugene Fields knows how the disease has changed his family forever.**

**"We have learned that coping with stress as a caregiver is an on-going challenge," Eugene said. "As a runner I've completed 50 marathons and 10 half marathons. When you run a marathon you cross the finish line one mile at a time. When you are a caregiver to a loved one with Alzheimer's or any other dementia disease you must learn to take each challenge one day at a time. You must also learn to seek advice and support and not try to do it alone," he added.**

Although whites make up the great majority of the 5.3 million people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, African-Americans and Hispanics are at higher risk for developing the disease. African-Americans are about two times more likely, and Hispanics are about one and one-half times more likely than whites to have Alzheimer's and other dementias.

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The Alzheimer's Association, Central Ohio Chapter continues to advance its services by providing free onsite care consultations in seven of the fourteen counties it serves. The Chapter has expanded its outreach in minority and under-served communities in Franklin County through a partnership with LifeCare Alliance. The partnership allows the Central Ohio Chapter to offer free onsite care consultations each month at five community wellness centers operated by LifeCare Alliance.

Although African-Americans and Hispanics are more likely to have Alzheimer's and dementia, they are less likely to have a diagnosis. Delays in diagnosis mean that they are not getting treatment in the earlier stages of the disease when treatments are most effective and they also miss the opportunity to make legal, financial and care plans.

“Early detection, diagnosis and intervention are vital because they provide individuals the best opportunities for treatment, support and planning for their future,” said Chippas. “We know many families miss the warning signs or mistakenly assume symptoms are a normal part of aging. The Central Ohio Chapter has worked hard to educate our community about those signs that may actually be cause for concern and warrants medical follow up.”

For more information or to view a copy of the *2010 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report* please visit [www.alz.org/facts](http://www.alz.org/facts). To learn about the programs and services the Central Ohio Chapter offers, please call (614) 457-6003 or visit [www.alz.org/centralohio](http://www.alz.org/centralohio).

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**Alzheimer's Association's Facts and Figures**

The *Alzheimer's Association's Facts and Figures* report is a comprehensive compilation of national statistics and information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The report conveys the impact of Alzheimer's on individuals, families, government, and the nation's health care system. Since its 2007 inaugural release, the report has become the most cited source covering the broad spectrum of Alzheimer issues. The *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report is an official publication of the Alzheimer's Association®.

**Columbus residents Eugene and Carol Fields. To interview the Fields or other caregivers please contact the Alzheimer's Association, Central Ohio Chapter.**

