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## **NEW REPORT SAYS MANY AS 960,000 ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS IN FLORIDA**

**Jacksonville, FL March 15, 2011** – According to the Alzheimer's Association's® *2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, ....

### **Growing Impact of Alzheimer's on Families**

- Alzheimer's disease is heartbreaking experience for both the individual with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.
- In this year's *Facts and Figures* report, we see the number of people with the disease growing and the number of friends and family who care for them significantly more than previously reported.
- The new report reveals there are more than **960,000** Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers in Florida, and shedding light on the growing impact of a disease that currently is the sixth-leading cause of death and the only cause of death among the top 10 causes in America without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.
- In 2010, these caregivers provided 1.1 billion hours of unpaid care valued at \$13 billion dollars.
- In fact, Florida joins 8 other states with the highest unpaid caregiver contributions in the country at \$6 billion or more.
- There are an estimated 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, including 450,000 living in Florida alone.
- Most people survive an average of four to eight years after a diagnosis, but many can live as long as 20 years with the disease. This prolonged duration often places increasingly intensive care demands on family members and friends who provide care.
- Most caregivers are family members who take on a tremendous financial, physical and emotional burden to help care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or a related dementia.

“Alzheimer's is a significant threat not only for the nation – but also for the people of Florida,” said Kay Redington, CEO Alzheimer's Association Central and North

Florida Chapter. “With a rapidly aging population at increased risk for developing Alzheimer’s and the number of caregivers growing each year, it will become increasingly important for states to be prepared with dementia-capable support services for people at all stages of the disease.”

### **Alzheimer’s Impact on States**

- Medicaid covers nursing home care and other long-term care services in the community for individuals who can no longer afford to pay for long-term care expenses. Ensuring access to Medicaid for those who need it must remain a priority for states as they deal with the escalating Alzheimer crisis.
- Average per-person Medicaid payments for beneficiaries aged 65 and older with Alzheimer’s and other dementias are nine times higher than Medicaid payments for those without the disease. While Medicaid costs are \$37 billion today they will climb almost 400 percent by 2050.
- At a time when a number of states are facing tremendous budget challenges, the growing Alzheimer’s population will strain state budgets further.
- Alzheimer’s has profound implications for future state budgets, and states must prepare now to address the multiple and complex challenges that Alzheimer’s poses to individuals, families and state governments, particularly Medicaid.
- While only 4 percent of the general population will be admitted to a nursing home by age 80, for people with Alzheimer’s, 75 percent will be admitted to a nursing home, posing significant economic challenges to state Medicaid budgets.
- More than half of the states in the country have developed or are in the process of developing state plans, including Florida. These plans will be instrumental in assessing the current impact of Alzheimer’s on Florida and outlining what steps Florida lawmakers must take in the coming years to improve its services and support to Alzheimer’s families.

“The latest Facts and Figures report shows the significant impact of Alzheimer’s disease – on the individual, the family, and state and federal governments,” said Kay Redington, CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association, Central and North Florida Chapter. “This is why we urge state policymakers to support the creation of a Florida Alzheimer’s plan which can help to set goals for a broad range of related issues such as state support of research efforts, financing long-term care, expanding dementia-capable home and community based services and other important issues.”

### **Importance of Early Detection**

- Increasing evidence suggests that early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s and timely intervention is beneficial, both for people with the disease and their caregivers.
- Early diagnosis allows affected people, relatives and their caregivers to plan for the future, obtain medical care to manage symptoms and optimize function, and assists Alzheimer’s families in taking steps to reduce the risk of accidents requiring further medical care.

- The new report explores the issue of early detection and outlines the various benefits it provides families, including access to valuable support services and resources and also helping to reduce anxiety among caregivers.
- The Alzheimer's Association helps newly diagnosed individuals and their families. The 24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900 can provide support and resource information.

**Possible Quote:**

“The Alzheimer's Association is committed to increasing awareness about the importance of early detection and diagnosis,” said Kay Redington, CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, Central and North Florida Chapter. The 24/7 Helpline goal is to work with families in the community and connect them to local resources and services that help them to better understand and manage what Alzheimer's disease introduces into their lives. This knowledge can not only be empowering but extremely helpful to the whole family.”

- Delays in diagnosis mean that individuals are not getting treatment in the earlier stages of the disease when they are most effective. They also miss the opportunity to make legal, financial and care plans.

The full text of the Alzheimer's Association's *2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* can be viewed at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

**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 healthcare 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®.

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