

alzheimer's association®

Miami Valley Chapter



VanVlymen announced as Executive Director



Following the June retirement of long-time Executive Director Judy Turner, the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter Board

Director, Programming/Communications. Eric advanced the programming offered by the Chapter and assumed the external communication responsibilities which included newsletter, website and media relations. Judy Turner shares, "One of my favorite and easiest tasks as Executive Director was to present a succession plan to the Board when I announced my retirement. The plan I presented was that Eric VanVlymen be selected as my successor. The Board, like I, recognized immediately that "Mr.V" as I often call him, is the perfect choice to lead this organization into the future. I couldn't be more pleased or excited with their decision!" See Pages 4 & 5 honoring Judy Turner's 20 years of Service.

of Directors announces Eric VanVlymen as the new Executive Director. Eric has been with the Chapter for ten years, in his most recent role as the Associate

New Name. Improved Walk. Join Us!

The Alzheimer's Association signature event, formerly Memory Walk, is renamed the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's. This new name clearly communicates the purpose of the walk...to end Alzheimer's. The Miami Valley



Chapter will again join the largest national movement to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. The five walks held in the Miami Valley area will be among 600 community walk events scheduled nationwide.

Registration is open for fall walks in Dayton, Yellow Springs, Greenville, Sidney and Troy. The Miami Valley Chapter is looking for families, businesses and local organizations to form teams that will raise funds and awareness for the Alzheimer's cause. Dollars raised will support services for local families and advance critical research. There is no cost to register. Participants who raise a minimum of \$100 will receive a Walk t-shirt. For more information and to register visit Walk2endALZ.org, 800-272-3900 or carrie.mueller@alz.org.



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A MESSAGE... from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The following is a message I sent to the Chapter Board of Directors in December, and I want to share it with you. "I want to begin by wishing you each a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year. I also want you to know that it is my intention to retire at the end of the fiscal year – June 30, 2011. It is with truly mixed emotions that I am doing this, but I do think it is the right decision for me and for the Chapter. I have been working with the Executive Committee for several weeks and presented a succession plan to them this morning which they approved and will bring to the full Board in January. I had staff for lunch today and also told them of my impending retirement. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to lead the Chapter these last almost 20 years and know that I am leaving it in the hands of a very capable and dynamic staff and Board. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity entrusted to me."

I have written the newsletter column so many times in the last 20 years that it is truly hard to imagine this will be the last one I will write. It's impossible for me to put on paper all my thoughts and emotions regarding my time at the Miami Valley Chapter. I came here for "a job" almost 20 years ago, and that job became so much more. The Alzheimer's Association – Miami Valley Chapter is a mission driven organization, and we have never wavered from that. It's that commitment to the mission by each and every staff member, board member and volunteer that makes the chapter so unique.

And, for me, it is also the people. I have had the pleasure of working for and with individuals who have made such a difference in my life, and I am truly blessed to have you as lifelong friends. We met because of a horrific disease that we will never stop battling to eradicate, but the bonds we formed are a true blessing. Thank you all for your kindness,



Judy Turner and her late husband John.

support and generosity and for being such a special part of my life.

As to that succession plan, the Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Eric VanVlymen, Associate Director of Programs and Communications, has been chosen as my successor. Anyone who has worked with Eric knows that he is the perfect choice. Eric has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern Indiana and has

been at the Chapter since 2001. Before coming to the Chapter, he held a series of positions at Franciscan at St. Leonard. He was also a Long-term Care Ombudsman in his earlier career. Eric is the employee every boss wants to have because he makes you look good! His passion, commitment, energy, knowledge and skills are unparalleled, and he is responsible for developing and implementing what is now a

vast array of programs for each stage of the disease and also for so many other things! Eric is a true team player, and with Eric, Julie Worley, Judy Fowler, Teresa Thomas, Pat Roby, Kathleen Feisley, Laurel Kerr, Melissa Woehrman, Velma Barber, Carrie Mueller,

Ivory Williams and Melissa Edwards on the team, anything is possible!

~Judy Turner



Janelle Forbes, Current President of the Board of Directors.

"Judy is so knowledgeable, competent and gracious. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her."

...from our future Executive Director

Upon Judy Turner's retirement, it will be my honor to lead the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter as the new Executive Director. I am thankful for the solid foundation created by Judy and so many others that allow our chapter to face the present challenges and look with hope toward our future.

Our Foundation – Judy Turner led the past 20 years as Executive Director by building meaningful community relationships to support the mission and grow the chapter. Judy's passion and dedication are shared by many former and current board members who built a strong and highly regarded organization. Judy also developed a staff of dedicated professionals who work diligently to further the mission of serving families. Judy Turner serves as a leader, mentor and friend to each of us, and I am honored to follow in her footsteps.

Our Present
- Today 700,000 caregivers in Ohio provide many hours to the 230,000 Ohioans diagnosed with dementia. Though Alzheimer's is talked about in news reports and seen in television show characters today, the stigma remains and many caregivers and people with dementia face this disease in isolation. Building upon the foundation, the Miami Valley Chapter must lead our community

to create greater awareness of available services and proactively connect more individuals to those services.

Our Future - The greatest work lies ahead. For each of the 5.4 million Americans diagnosed with Alzheimer's, their children are beginning to worry. Every day, 10,000 boomers turn 65 entering them into the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's – age. We know that 1 out of 8 boomers will have Alzheimer's after 65 and almost 1 out of 2 by the age of 85. Our future must ensure that we can adequately provide services to the many boomers who will face this disease while we push for our ultimate goal of a cure.

Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, partners, staff and friends who have assisted Judy over the past 20 years. Together we will build a hopeful future by creating more awareness, serving those affected in our community and passionately moving toward "A World without Alzheimer's."

~Eric VanVlymen



I ask you now to help our chapter by telling even more people about our services, asking more friends to become advocates, and inviting all you know to participate in the new Walk to End Alzheimer's.

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Reflecting on 20 Years of Leadership

Honoring Judy Turner - Executive Director (1991-2011)

Executive Director Judy Turner is retiring from the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter after 20 years serving the many families, caregivers and people living with dementia in the Miami Valley. Judy led the Chapter through the years of extreme growth and progress resulting in the developed programs and services provided today. Judy talks about the changes, challenges and accomplishments encountered over the years.

Judy was hired in 1991 as the second Executive Director of the Miami Valley Chapter and joined a Chapter serving families and professionals with limited support groups and programming. Starting with only 8 Support Groups, the number grew to the 21 active support groups offered today throughout the Chapter serving area. Programming developed as well. Judy identified a need for information and programming options for people living with early stage dementia. "At the beginning not enough doctors in Dayton were even diagnosing individuals soon enough," Judy reflects. "We have seen such advancement in evaluating and indentifying Alzheimer's earlier." As a result, in the new Spring/Summer Program Guide the

Chapter announced the new Memory Café offering year-round programming designed specifically for people living with dementia.

In addition to the programming changes, Judy led through the growth of the National Association and its contribution both nationally and locally. Judy remembers, "When I started we tried to serve people as best we could through a 24/7 Help*line. When people called after hours they would hear an answering machine message with my home phone number to call." Now the National Alzheimer's Association partners with the Chapter offices using the 800.272.3900 number to provide live person coverage during non-business hours. "This can be so important to someone calling with a crisis or in need."

Through the years Judy stayed focused on the direction of the Chapter and advancing awareness, advocacy and fundraising for Alzheimer's. Judy served as part of a collective statewide advocacy group. "We accomplished a lot as a group. We were able to raise the awareness of the state leaders and work to create an Ohio state plan to address the Alzheimer's epidemic." To increase funding, the Chapter hosted its

INTERVIEW QUOTES

John Sullivan, *Board Member 2002-2008.*

"I always remember calling the Chapter for the first time and having the ED answer the phone. She was so supportive and caring. I got involved and became a board member and then become president. The Miami Valley Chapter has been a "well run operation" under Judy's leadership."



Lou Mason, *Board Member 1991-1997*

"Judy doesn't let people go – she remains loyal to the people she has worked with. Judy is warm and kind and a good judge of people. Her staffing model is hiring board members and it has worked. Judy always dresses in purple – you know she is loyal to the Alzheimer's Association."

The Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter Board of Directors and Staff invite you to a Retirement Open House honoring

Judy Turner

for twenty years of dedicated service.

Wednesday, June 22nd

4:00 – 6:30 in the evening

Dayton Marriott

1414 S. Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, OH

The public is invited.

Please reply at RSVPalzDayton@yahoo.com

Judy announced her retirement decision in December after leading the Chapter as the Executive Director since 1991. Upon stepping down from her post, she plans to volunteer and spend more time with her two children and six grandchildren.

first Memory Walk in the Dayton Mall in 1991 and raised \$14,000. In 2010 a Chapter record was set raising \$275,000 and recruiting close to 2000 participants eager to raise dollars and bring attention to the impact of Alzheimer's in the community.

"I have been blessed by the volunteers and staff that I have worked with over the years...and I do not say that lightly. They are an amazing core of people committed to the mission of the Alzheimer's Association. I could not have accomplished any of these things or any other on my own."

Marty Ebeling, Board member 1993-1999 and colleague from Junior League. "Judy's successes can be attributed to her optimism and her steady and calm nature. Judy has a love for people and is dedicated to the Alzheimer's Association."

Mike McKinniss, Lead Volunteer

"Judy cares about the cause and is easy to work with. I like her positive attitude toward life."

Wendy Scholl, Board member 1993-1999

and colleague from Junior League. "Judy is compassionate and has a love for people. She is always so appreciative which she expresses so well in her sweet notes."

Greg Nelson, Lead Volunteer

"Judy has an effervescent attitude. She is a sweetheart and it is hard to say no to her. Her welcoming nature makes it easy to help."





UK Scientists Move Closer to Discovering Cause of Alzheimer's

UK scientists report that they have taken another step forward in their search to identify the causes of Alzheimer's.

Dr. Amritpal Mudher from Southampton University was speaking about her findings on the protein tau, a major hallmark of Alzheimer's. Healthy nerve cells produce tau but in Alzheimer's an abnormal form of tau is produced which does not function correctly. Dr. Mudher has found that the abnormal tau does not only disrupt nerve cells, forming tangles that cause them to die, but it also affects healthy tau around it, preventing the cells from performing their normal functions.

Dr Susanne Sorensen, Head of Research at the Alzheimer's Society, says, "Dr Mudher's findings provide important information about how a key protein is involved in Alzheimer's. It is particularly interesting to see this additional activity of abnormal tau as it helps to explain the effect tau has on nerve cells and why the cells die. The more we understand about how tau works the closer we get to a potential treatment."

~Medical News Today



Look for on-going coverage of Alzheimer's news in mid-July thanks to the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease (ICAD).

The Alzheimer's Association is the lead convener of ICAD. The conference meets annually and brings the best research and researchers from around the world together to achieve the ultimate goal of a World without Alzheimer's®.

As the world leader in Alzheimer's, the association brings almost 4,000 researchers to one location each year for the unveiling of cutting edge studies. These findings often set off a number of articles and stories about Alzheimer's in the press of the world's largest cities to cities like Dayton, OH. This year's ICAD, held in Paris, France, will be July 16-21.



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Record Breaking Year!

Thank you for making the 2010 Memory Walk a record year. Together we raised \$275,905, surpassing the Chapter goal! We are grateful for the committed work of our local Walk committees and leaders Becky Baker, Sarah Beers, Jo Grandel, Holly Hill, Mike McKinnis, LuAnn Presser, and Amber Scott.

Top Fundraising Teams

Dayton

Nelson Family Foundation Award (Healthcare) Brookhaven \$11,400

Mariann Baldwin Award (Friends & Family) Care-Talkers \$6,906

Individual Fundraisers

Yellow Springs

Healthcare Ohio Masonic Home Marchers \$3,603

Friends & Family Baker & Associates \$5,819

Sidney

Healthcare Fair Haven \$3,243

Friends & Family St. Jacob Lutheran Church \$1,707

Troy

Healthcare SterlingHouse/Clarebridge of Piqua & Troy \$4503

Friends & Family Celestine's Team \$2321

Greenville

Healthcare Rest Haven \$1,776

Friends & Family Patty Cakes \$1,200

Top Overall Individual Fundraisers:

Corie Miller \$3,561 Marie McLaughlin \$2,550 Ann Frank \$2,520

Thank you to our 2010 Memory Walk Sponsor Partners!

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July 1, 2010 -Mar 31, 2011

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Mission Momentum



Have you considered planned giving through your estate plan? Become a member of our Circle of Hope.

Planned gifts allow you to make charitable contributions through your estate toward Alzheimer's care, support, advocacy and research while benefiting from tax savings and steady income opportunities. Every significant discovery in the fight against Alzheimer's disease has occurred within the last 20 years. With continued support, one day we will realize our mission of a world without Alzheimer's. You can make a difference in our mission through planned giving. To learn how to leave a legacy of support for millions of families living with this disease, call **Teresa Thomas at 937-291-3332** or visit alz.org/dayton



Young's Ice Cream Charity Bike Tour Saturday, July 23rd and Sunday, July 24th, 2011

Get out and ride at the 2011 Young's Ice Cream Charity Bike Tour to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, South Community Behavior Services, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and United Rehabilitation Services. Bikers have the option to choose a one day ride (28 or 56 miles) or two day ride to Ohio Northern University (61 or 84 miles). **For details on how you can participate call Judy Fowler at 937-291-3332 or visit youngsdairy.com/biketour.**

Last year, 178 riders raised a total of \$72,000! Everyone had a great time, raised lots of money for charity, and ate lots and lots of Young's ice cream! A very special thank you to Dan Young, Ann Kremer, Grant Stumpf, Jerry Walling, Dean Hertert, Rik Crouch, Ray Socrates, and Geoff Smith for all of their efforts in planning the ride.



2nd Annual Alz Stars Bowling for Alzheimer's Friday, August 26, 2011 at Capri Lanes in Kettering

Join the Pro-Senior bowlers for a night of bowling, dinner, prizes and more to benefit the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter. The Pro-Seniors will be arriving early into town for The Professional Bowlers Association's Dayton Classic Senior Tour on Friday night to share a lane and their fancy skills with participants. Dollars raised at the Alz Stars Bowling for Alzheimer's event support local Chapter programs and services, while advancing critical research. For more information on how YOU can bowl with the Pro-Seniors at Capri Lanes and support the Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter, **please contact Teresa Thomas at (937) 291-3332 or (800) 272-3900 or email teresa.thomas@alz.org.** Additional information can be found at www.alz.org/dayton.



Advocacy Update

Mr. Stauffer Goes to Washington

After Dennis Stauffer’s wife, Gerri, was diagnosed at 58 with Alzheimer’s, their life changed. Taking early retirement, Dennis joined the ranks of other caregivers who devote their lives to provide care. After using the services of the Alzheimer’s Association Miami Valley Chapter, he was introduced to the idea of going to Washington D.C. for the annual Public Policy Forum.

This May Dennis Stauffer, a member of the Board of Directors, and five other advocates from the Miami Valley Chapter will travel to Washington DC to make their voices heard - this will be his fifth trip. “It’s an eye opener,” he comments about the experience of the Public Policy Forum, “You learn that you are part of a much larger cause. People from all over the United States are gathered and working together to move this cause forward.”

Reasons to Participate

“I attend because there is still hope to cure this disease and this forum gives me a voice with our federal government,” Mr. Stauffer shares. He notes that attendees have conversations with other passionate volunteers and staff from across the

country, meet key national association staff and ultimately march up Capitol Hill and meet with legislators. Though each voice is small, at the forum attendees realize that together their voices are amplified.



Dennis Stauffer and his late wife, Gerri - his inspiration for advocacy!

“Another reason I attend,” Mr. Stauffer adds, “is for Gerri. It’s my way of continuing her memory now that she is gone.” The forum provides an opportunity for advocates to collect by the Reflecting Pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial for a candle lighting ceremony.

2011 Attendees

This year, six attendees from the Miami Valley are attending the Public Policy Forum covering our 3 congressional districts. Dennis and Patti Stauffer, Myrtle Hickman (Chapter Volunteer), Tabitha Arnold and Sarah Allen (Woodglen Alzheimer’s Community) and Eric VanVlymen (Chapter Staff).



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Professionals

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Dementia Care Mapping Training in Dayton, OH

International dementia training program, Dementia Care Mapping (DCM), to be offered in Dayton, OH by leading experts LaDonna Jensen, RN and Marilyn Hartle, MSW.

Imagine seeing life through the eyes of a person with dementia - DCM offers professionals this opportunity. Dementia experts from 19 other countries have been trained in DCM. In England, where the program originated, both the government and private entities use DCM as a quality assessment tool for dementia care delivery and in The Netherlands, there is one mapper per every 18 residents in a nursing home.

During the three day training, you and/or your staff will learn the necessary tools to effectively observe and improve dementia care. The training can help you advance as a dementia care professional and improve your organization's delivery of care.

Thanks to the generosity of WoodGlen Alzheimer's Community, practice mapping will be offered as an option to attendees at no extra cost. Please consider the investment for you staff and register now.

Program Dates/Time:

June 21-23 Registration 8:30am
Program 9:00am - 5:00 pm
June 24 Practice Mapping (Optional)
9:00am - 12:30pm

CEs:

Administrators and Social Workers are approved for 19 CEs.

Registration/Cost:

The fee is \$550 for the first attendee and \$500 for additional attendees from the facility. This fee includes lunch, refreshments and a course packet with a User's Manual but **does not** cover over-night accommodations or other travel expenses.

Location:

Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter
3797 Summit Glen Dr. G100 Dayton OH 45449

For more information or to register:

Contact Pat Roby at (937) 291-3332 or visit www.alz.org/dayton.

Thank you to our 2010 Symposium Partners!

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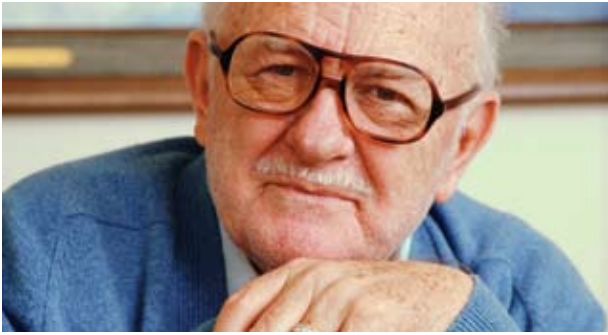
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Caregiver Topic

The Nursing Home Decision

Faye Kesner, caregiver and support group leader shares, “My children came to me and said, ‘It is time’,” after she faced her own emergency surgery. Over time most dementia caregivers like Mrs. Kesner face the decision to place a loved one in an Assisted Living or Nursing Home facility.

Caregivers commonly ask, “When will I know it is time to place?” For some caregivers just asking this question is a bold step, but then it leads to the next question, “How do I choose?” Then caregivers finally make the step realizing that the emotional impact continues after placement as they deal with issues of loss and grief. Yet, despite the difficult road, placement can be a positive move for the person living with dementia (PLWD).

When it is Time to Place

Usually several events prompt a decision to place in a facility like a medical event (for either the caregiver or PLWD) or caregiver exhaustion. For Mrs. Kesner, she was completely exhausted and ended up needing emergency surgery when her children finally prompted her to decide. “You just know,” she said, “but it still is not easy to make the decision.” Lastly, behaviors and issues related to the disease often force the placement decision.

Julie Worley, Director of Family Assistance at the Alzheimer’s Association Miami Valley adds, “Caregivers of someone in the early stages might

see safety issues like driving, leaving the stove on or calling neighbors at odd hours.” In the middle stages, behaviors that prompt placement are sleep issues that keep caregivers up all night, aggressive behavior the family cannot handle, wandering, etc. Another issue for caregivers is the 24/7 care that often overwhelms the person. In the later stages, the care becomes physical and the family, already exhausted from years of care, simply cannot keep up with the physical demands



Mrs. Fay Kesner, caregiver and Fairborn support group leader with her husband Bob together at his assisted living facility.

Two Indicators for Placement

The two indicators for placement are caregiver health and the person living with dementia’s (PLWD) well-being. One caregiver shared, “I think my Grandma’s death came because of the load she was carrying. I wish we would have intervened sooner.” If the caregiver’s health is suffering, than placement options should be explored. Secondly, consider the PLWD’s well-being in the discussion because at times the person will do better after placement because they have social interaction and activities.

How to Choose

“Start early and use respite stays,” suggests Mrs. Kesner. She had chosen one facility for a week-long respite only to decide that she would not return because the care did not meet her expectations. When she tried a second place for another week-long respite, she found that the care met her expectations.

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The Nursing Home Decision

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When the medical emergency occurred, her family called that facility and they were able to help them in an emergency. Her second piece of advice is to look for quality of care. "I visited different facilities at different times. I would also speak to the paid caregivers when I visited and not just the marketing staff. The caregivers are more open and you can judge whether they are friendly or not," Mrs. Kesner added.

Families now have on-line resources like www.medicare.gov/nhcompare to read quality reports. Lastly, talk with other families who have made the decision which you can do by attending support groups and education meetings. **Visit www.alz.org/dayton for a list of education programs and support groups.**

Emotional Impact

"When a week had passed after placing my husband," Mrs. Kesner shares, "I told my daughters I wanted to bring Dad home. It feels like I had given up." The emotions of placement are difficult to process. Many caregivers feel guilt, loneliness and sadness after the decision has been made. Caregivers should be prepared to face these emotions by garnering support. "The difficulty of the decision passes over time, but I encourage others to find support immediately after placement. One of my daughters stayed with me for a few days which really helped," she adds.

Mrs. Worley suggests, "Support from friends, family, pastors, counselors, support groups and professionals help the caregiver cope with the emotional impact." Mrs. Kesner notes, "The

Nursing Home Decision Class offered in May

The **Caregiver Essentials** program will feature the topic, *Nursing Home Decision*, on Tuesday, May 24th at 6:30 p.m. at First Christian Church 3638 Springfield Urbana Rd, Springfield, OH. Free respite care available.

To **register** or learn about the full list of education programs being offered, contact Velma Barber at (937) 291-3332, (800) 272-3900 or velma.barber@alz.org.

Alzheimer's Association has been a lot of help. Bob and I started together at the Early Stage programming. I joined a support group and went to education classes which helped me prepare for what is to come." In fact, she now leads a support group in Fairborn to help others by listening and sharing what she has learned.

The decision proves difficult for many families, but over time and with much support, it can be a positive move for those who can no longer care for the person at home. Placing a person in a facility is not a defeat, but a continuation of the care provided to the person.

The Kesners continue to share their lives and even go on dates for ice cream or out to dinner at Bob Evans. They have signed up with the Reducing Disability in Alzheimer's Disease (RDAD) program so that they can interact during her visits in a meaningful way. "I am satisfied with the care he gets," Mrs. Kesner notes, "I come to visit now, and we can be together, and I can enjoy his presence without being exhausted."



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Caregiver Programs

Julie Worley is the Family Assistance Director at the Miami Valley Chapter responsible for managing the 24/7 helpline, respite program, family support staff, and RDAD (Reducing Disability in Alzheimer's disease) program. In 2011, Julie celebrates 10 years with the Chapter helping families, caregivers and people living with dementia in the Miami Valley area. Julie reflects on her ten years with the Chapter and shares her valuable experience and knowledge.

Why did you choose this line of work?

I have an undergraduate degree in Social work and Masters in counseling. I always enjoyed working with older adults and knew that was the line of work I wanted to choose. I had a close relationship with my grandmother who had Alzheimer's. The staff at the Alzheimer's Association has such a passion for helping those with the disease. When given the opportunity, I knew I wanted to work for this organization.

Why should families call the Association for help?

In most cases people wait too long to call and get help. My advice to anyone would be to **call earlier!** We do our best work helping families throughout their journey when we can build a relationship with them. We can assess the situation. We are very knowledgeable about community resources that families might not know are available.

Why should people use the 24/7 helpline?

People should not hesitate to call about anything! People can call 800.272.3900 anytime day or night and speak to someone live. If individuals call we can get them headed in the right direction through our many resources or just be a shoulder to lean on during a difficult time.

What is Respite Care and who qualifies?

Respite Care, funded through the State of Ohio budget, is provided to primary caregivers who care in the home full time for someone living with dementia. The Association works with outside resources to provide respite care in the home or at an adult day facility. In order to qualify, the person living with dementia needs to 1) have a dementia diagnosis 2) live in our 9 county service area, and 3) require 24/7 care. Due to limited funding, there are waiting lists. Once again, families often wait too long to call. Families should call and be placed on a waiting list before the need becomes too great.

What do families whom you have helped share with you?

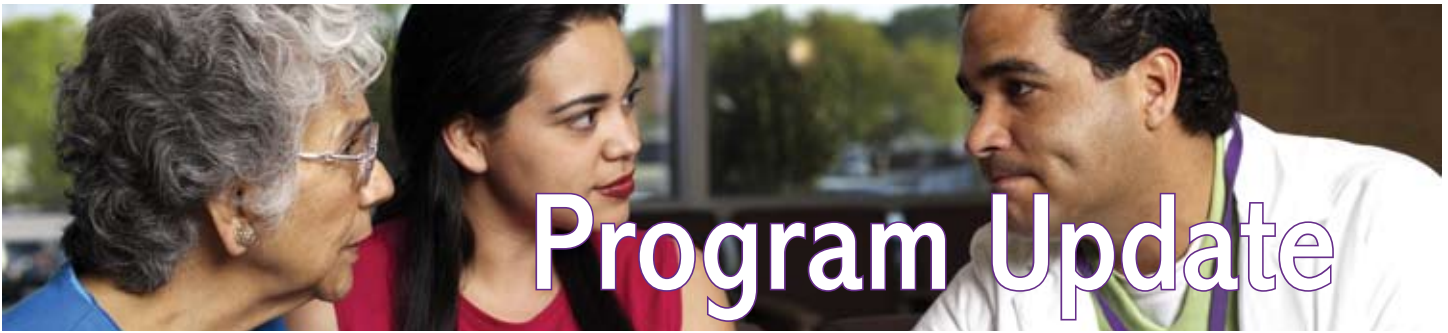
Families tell me that they would not have known what to do if they had not called the Alzheimer's



Family Support Staff pictured Front Row: Kathleen Feisley, Melissa Woehrman, Julie Worley Back Row: Velma Barber and Laurel Kerr with new computers purchased with grant dollars from The Dayton Foundation.

Association. They would not have known where to go for information about the disease, legal services, long-term care facility options, respite care, local doctor referrals, Senior Companion, support groups...we lead them to the many resources in the community available to them. We check in with families periodically. They like knowing that someone is out there who cares.

Family Assistance staff, Laurel Kerr, Kathleen Feisley and Melissa Woehrman are each assigned to certain counties. They have such big hearts. They care so much for the families they assist and do anything they can to help families. This is our best quality as an organization. The high level of caring by everyone involved.



Alzheimer’s Association Miami Valley Chapter’s New Program Guide

The launching of our newest tool, the Program Guide, has been met with good feedback from the community. One caregiver shares about the new program guide, “It’s like my Bible. When I received it in my packet, I read over every word to understand how I can better cope with this disease.” A nurse at a doctor’s office calls and asks, “Can you send me copies of the program guide? The doctor I work for sees a lot of patients with early dementia and I want them to have this guide.” Another caregiver wanted a hundred copies to pass out to professionals.

“We have needed a tool to better communicate with our families the many different programs we offer. One day at church two years ago, I picked up a program offering booklet and thought this is what we need!” shares Eric VanVlymen, Associate Director of Programs and Communications. The staff worked for two years to develop and launch the program guide. “We used to believe that people would only attend programs in their county. But when we started the first Caregiver Essentials

program with one topic and one location, we found that we had six of our nine counties represented,” Mr. VanVlymen explains. The program guide embraces that by sharing our full set of programs with our families throughout our area.

The program guide will be updated two times per year and delivered to support groups and mailed to caregivers in February and August. We developed our marketing plan to mail 4,200 to our current caregivers and had 3,800 available for distribution to a variety of locations throughout our nine counties. The demand has been greater than expected, and we are trying to conserve our last copies to ensure all new caregivers who call receive a copy. The newsletter will now focus on more articles about relevant issues to our caregivers as program information is highlighted through the program guide.

Download a copy online at www.alz.org/dayton or call 800-272-3900 to request a copy



In the Program Guide

Our new program guide provides one place for our families to learn about upcoming programs and events. The guide includes:

First Steps - Each Spring and Fall we offer a 3 or 4 part week program on a variety of topics important for new caregivers.

Essentials - Monthly education programming from February through October at three locations on a variety of topics

Support Groups - A list of Alzheimer’s Association affiliated support groups

Upcoming Events - Events like caregiver retreat, science night, family picnic, etc.

Programs for People with Early Stage Dementia - We list education, support group, and Memory Cafe information.

Alzheimer's Association
Miami Valley Chapter
3797 Summit Glen Dr G100
Dayton, OH 45449

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Troy, October 9th

For more
information
Carrie.Mueller@alz.org
800.272.3900

Register at
Walk2endALZ.org



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