



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.