

alzheimer's association desert southwest chapter

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Quarter 4

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CAREGIVER CONFERENCE 2010

7th Annual Southern Nevada

Caregiver Conference

*Caregiving: It Takes Creativity,
Humor, Support...*

Finding the Balance

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

8:00 am – 4:45 pm

Texas Station Gambling Hall & Hotel

We hope you will join us for the 7th Annual Southern Nevada Caregiver Conference, *Caregiving: It Takes Creativity, Humor, Support...Finding the Balance*. This year's conference theme recognizes and acknowledges the diverse roles and skills that caregivers employ to provide compassionate and effective dementia care and support and the many challenges faced along the caregiving journey.

This full day program will consist of two intensive sessions in the morning, provided by noted neurologists; Dr. Charles Bernick from the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health and Dr. Marwan Sabbagh from the Banner-sun Health Research Institute. These sessions will focus on the latest trends in Alzheimer's research, treatment and prevention. In the afternoon, following the lunch break, dual learning sessions will be offered on the following topics: *Challenging Behaviors: Re-Thinking Your Approach; Legal & Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease; Caregiver Stress: It's Important to Stay Connected; and Safety: What Every Caregiver Needs to Know*. Concluding our day together, will be a session on the *Role of Humor in Caregiving*, provided by Dr. Upinder Singh, from Touro University.

For all attendees, we aim to offer opportunities for interacting with experts in the field of Dementia care, exchanging information with those sharing similar experiences, and energizing your spirit. We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you!

For more information or to register for the conference, please contact **Christine Terry** at 702.248.2770 or email at christine.terry@alz.org



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the Date

6th Annual

Alzheimer's Association

Memorial Golf

Tournament

June 5, 2010



Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's Action Summit 2010- Washington, D.C.

The month of March presented an opportunity for three members of our community to advocate for the Alzheimer's Association in Washington, D.C. Gina Haugh, Regional Leadership Council member, Peggy Wilfong, Regional Office Manager, and Mary Liveratti, Advocate from



Mary Liveratti, Gina Haugh and Peggy Wilfong

Carson City, NV met with Nevada's elected officials in hopes of gaining support for several initiatives. These include the *Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act*, the *Alzheimer's Detection Diagnosis, Care,*

and Planning Act (ADD-CAP), and the *National Alzheimer's Project Act*.

The *Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act* will increase the federal government's commitment to fight Alzheimer's disease through research, education and care. The ADD-CAP will increase detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and provide access, information and support for newly diagnosed patients and their families. The *National Alzheimer's Project Act* will establish a National Alzheimer's Project Office and Inter-agency Advisory Council responsible for creating a national plan to overcome the Alzheimer's disease crisis.

As the representative of the group, I must say that the three

of us were thrilled to be on Capitol Hill to discuss the issues of this devastating disease. We spent Sunday evening at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial along with 700 other advocates during a moving candlelight vigil. We were joined online by 11,000 other virtual "candles" to hear those touched by Alzheimer's disease tell their stories and ask for our help in representing them at the Capitol on March 9th, 2010. It was a time to remember those that have forgotten.

Peggy Wilfong
Regional Office Manager



Rolling Libraries

New Rolling Libraries for Volunteer Support Group Facilitators

Thanks to a grant: *Alzheimer's Revitalizing Support Group Project*, provided by The Nevada Community Foundation, Volunteer Support Group Facilitators will receive Rolling Resource Libraries. The Rolling Library consists of a purple rolling suitcase with the Alzheimer's Association

Desert Southwest Chapter logo and is filled with books, DVD's, fact sheets, brochures and a newly revised Support Group Facilitator manual. The purpose of the Rolling Libraries is to provide additional resources and support to volunteer facilitators as well as to enhance the services provided to support group participants.

The Southern Nevada Regional office will be distributing the new Rolling Libraries at a special reception, being held to honor and appreciate our

volunteer Support Group facilitators, on April 9, 2010, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Christine Terry
Program Manager



New Service for Caregivers

Nevada Coping With Caregiving (CWC):

Nevada Care

The State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, through a collaborative partnership with the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter, Alzheimer's Association Northern Nevada/Northern California Chapter, the Cleveland

Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, and through a regional expansion program with the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services and Arizona State University, is pleased to announce a new program- **Nevada Coping with Caregiving**

(CWC): **Nevada Care** – that offers skill-building workshops for persons caring for

loved ones who are coping with dementia such as Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders. **Nevada Care** is part of a nationwide effort to provide evidence-based skills to caregivers.

For information about the program, please contact Christine Terry at the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter, Southern Nevada office at: phone 702. 248.2770 Or email christine.terry@alz.org

Social Security Administration Announcement

On 2-11-10, the Social Security Administration announced the inclusion of Alzheimer's disease, mixed dementia, and primary progressive aphasia under its compassionate allowances list. The result is that those with the disease will have expedited access to social security disability or supplemental security income, if they meet the criteria. SSD or SSI resources are very important to those with early-

onset/younger-onset Alzheimer's and related dementias as this disease robs them of their ability to be gainfully employed. In the past, these individuals were often initially denied benefits but would usually win on appeal. So, in addition to the enormous challenges that the disease itself presented, undergoing a long disability decision created an additional financial and emotional drain. As a longtime advocate

for those with Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association was at the forefront of the effort to add early-onset Alzheimer's disease to the compassionate allowance list.

Peggy Gutting
Family Care Consultant

5.3
million people
have Alzheimer's

a new case
every
70 seconds

6th
leading cause
of death

148
billion dollars
in annual costs

The Desert Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is a charitable organization incorporated in the State of Arizona and governed by a local board of directors. While we are an affiliate of the National Alzheimer's Association based in Chicago, all our work is devoted to providing service and support to Alzheimer's patients, family members and caregivers throughout Arizona and Southern Nevada.

Our Mission To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Our Vision A world without Alzheimer's disease.

Our Purpose To empower and support individuals, families, care partners and communities affected by dementia in Arizona and southern Nevada.

Announcements

**JOIN US IN MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN OUR
COMMUNITY**

We are looking for helpline volunteers and clerical volunteers to help us in the office. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please call

Shanna Grayson at
(702) 248-2770 or email
shanna.grayson@alz.org

¿Cómo puedo ayu-

Aporta tu tiempo como voluntario

¡Nuestros voluntarios son esenciales! Las oportunidades incluyen recibir entrenamiento para ayudar en programas como Helpline (Línea de Ayuda) o Grupos de Apoyo, ser asistente de oficina, promoción multicultural y en la comunidad, y participar activamente en comités.

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