

## Care Partners Newsletter

### Announcing the Alzheimer's Association Safety Center

Alzheimer's causes a number of changes in the brain and body that may affect safety. Depending on the stage of the disease, these can include changes in judgment, abstract thinking, sense of time/place and behavior.

As the disease progresses, the person's abilities will change. So situations that are not of concern today may become potential safety issues in the future.

Taking measures to ensure safety at all times can help prevent injuries, and it can help people with dementia feel relaxed and less overwhelmed. Use the tips and resources in this section to evaluate your surroundings for any particular dangers and change them to meet individual needs.

The Alzheimer's Association offers a Safety Center on our National Website at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) that discusses the following topics:

- Safety at Home
- Wandering
- Travel
- In a Disaster
- Medications

### Next month's Care Partner topic

When you attend one of our support groups you can expect to find...

- practical information you can use as you learn more about caregiving;
- a mutually supportive group of people who understand the experience of caring for a person with dementia.

For a list of Alzheimer's Association co-sponsored support groups call us at 800 272-3900

or visit our website at: [www.alz.org/gmc](http://www.alz.org/gmc) and follow the Support Group link on the left side of the home page.

### Inside this Edition

Safety Center	1
Social Security Administration	2
Upcoming Events	3
What's New	4

## **SSA May Add Alzheimer's to Allowances List**

Today there are an estimated 5.3 million Americans with Alzheimer's disease. Although the majority of Alzheimer cases are individuals age 65 and older, there is still a significant number of individuals under age 65 impacted by this fatal disease that has no cure. For people under age 65 with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, their cognitive impairment can quickly reach a point where they can no longer maintain gainful employment. The Alzheimer's Association applauds the Social Security Administration (SSA) for holding a Hearing on July 29, 2009, to examine whether these individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease or related dementias should be included in its Compassionate Allowances Initiative.

"Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative dementias are progressive and currently there aren't any effective treatments to delay onset or progression. These individuals affected are unable to work and eventually they get Social Security disability—sometimes after a long, difficult process and many appeals," says Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association. "Through the Compassionate Allowances process, Social Security can avoid the financial and emotional toll of going through a long decision process."

Under the Compassionate Allowances initiative, there is a recognized class of medical conditions and diseases that are severely debilitating or life-threatening which prevent individuals from being able to work for at least 12 months. Social Security's proactive efforts to "fast track" certain conditions will help to reduce the backlog of disability claims and, more importantly, ensure those claims that fall under this initiative will be decided within days instead of months or years.

Currently, many people with younger-onset Alzheimer's or other dementias face multiple challenges when applying for Social Security Disability benefits (SSDI), including a long decision process and multiple appeals. If the SSA decides to include Alzheimer's disease on the list of "Compassionate Allowances" conditions, it would simplify and streamline the SSDI application process and decrease the wait time for benefits.

The Alzheimer's Association believes that the Social Security Hearing is a significant step in considering individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer's and related dementias for the Compassionate Allowance list. It provides an opportunity for individuals with Alzheimer's to testify and share their personal experience navigating the Social Security Disability process before Social Security officials. The Alzheimer's Association remains committed to working with the Agency to ensure the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, and other related dementias continue to be considered and included.

For more information please visit: [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

---

# Upcoming Care Partner Events

## Memory Walk 09'

Saturday, August 22nd

Detroit Zoo

detroitmemorywalk@alz.org

### Combating Caregiver Stress

September 10th 6:30-8:00 pm

Sarah Care Adult Day Care Center

13425 19 Mile Rd., Suite 500

Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Free Respite (Adult day care) available!

### Combating Caregiver Stress

September 17th 1:00—3:00 pm

Theresa Maxi Apartments

(on the campus of University of Detroit Mercy)

16800 Wyoming, Detroit, MI 48221

---

### Legal and Financial Considerations

September 23rd 10:00—12:00 pm

Alzheimer's Association

20300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100

Southfield, MI 48076

**To register for these FREE education seminars,  
please call our Helpline at 1-800-272-3900**

---

## WHAT'S NEW?!

### New Book:

### Hugging Grandma: Loving Those with Memory Disorders

**By: Zina Kramer**

Hugging Grandma is a warm and heartening book that will help many families explain memory disorders to children, while providing specific and effective ways for a child to maintain a positive relationship with their relative who is memory impaired.

*Please call Treena at 248-996-1058 if you are interested in purchasing this book. The cost is \$13.00.*

---

**NEW SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Chateau of Novi**

45750 W. 11 Mile Road

Novi, MI 48374

248-380-4663

Facilitators: Tamisha Kaplan and Shana Vinegar

**1st & 3rd Wednesday 2:00 p.m.**

**2nd & 4th Thursday 7:00 p.m.**

**Golden Girls of Bloomfield Care Home**

6820 Mark Court

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

248-737-3922

Facilitator: Tanya Little

**3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.**