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November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

Alzheimer's disease is the seventh leading cause of death.

CHICAGO, IL---In honor of the 5.3 million Americans who have Alzheimer's disease the United States government has declared November to be National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. During November the Alzheimer's Association – Greater Illinois Chapter will host several educational seminars for family and professional caregivers.

"In Illinois there are more than half-a-million people affected by Alzheimer's disease when you consider that more than 210,000 have Alzheimer's and the nearly 350,000 are dementia related caregivers," said Erna Colborn, president and CEO for the Alzheimer's Association – Greater Illinois Chapter. "In Illinois alone there are more than 349,000 dementia related caregivers, in addition there are more than 301,786,000 hours of unpaid care given by caregivers that results in an economic value of \$3,349,833,685. The Alzheimer's Association – Greater Illinois Chapter is here to help all who are affected by this devastating disease through our community outreach services, most notably, our Care Navigation Services which will help family caregivers develop a plan for caregiving and help them in touch with vital community resources."

After designating a National Alzheimer's Disease Week in 1982, President Reagan helped to launch a national campaign against Alzheimer's disease in 1983, calling members of the Alzheimer's Association to the White House for the signing of a proclamation declaring National Alzheimer's Disease Month. "The emotional, financial and social consequences of Alzheimer's disease are so devastating that it deserves special attention," Reagan said. Taking lead of the issue, he went on to advocate research as "the only hope for victims and families." Reagan courageously announced his Alzheimer's diagnosis to the public in November 1994 and passed away in 2004. In 1983 fewer than 2 million Americans had the disease; today, the number of individuals with Alzheimer's has soared to as many as 5.3 million and is expected to grow to at least 16 million by 2050 unless something is done to slow or stop this devastating disease.

To learn more about programs and services offered by the Alzheimer's Association – Greater Illinois Chapter call 1.800.272.3900 or visit www.alz.org/illinois.

About the Alzheimer's Association - The Alzheimer's Association, the world leader in Alzheimer research and support, is the largest voluntary health organization dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and cure for Alzheimer's. Since 1980, the donor supported, nonprofit Alzheimer's Association has provided reliable information and care consultation; created supportive services for families; increased funding for dementia research; and influenced public policy changes. **The Greater Illinois Chapter** serves dozens of counties with offices in Bloomington, Carterville, Chicago, Joliet, Rockford and Springfield. For more information, call our Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/illinois.