



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Candle Lighting Ceremony to Commemorate National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month in November

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month & National Family Caregivers Month

The Rock River Area Branch Alzheimer's Association will hold a Candle Lighting Service Nov. 17th to honor or remember loved ones with Alzheimer's disease as an event of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

Participants are invited to attend the program beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Branch office, located at 93 S. Hennepin, Dixon.

According to Nancy Sweitzer, Branch Manager of the Rock River Area Branch, the event is intended to be an evening of remembrance, comfort, peace and thankfulness. Anyone is invited to attend to light a candle in honor or in memory of friends or family members who have been affected by Alzheimer's disease or a related illness.

There will be a \$5 charge for a votive candle, which will have the loved one's name with an attached ribbon. Participants can take the candles home after the service.

"National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month is an opportunity to build awareness of Alzheimer advancements and generate concern about the disease and its impact," stated Sweitzer. "The Association is constantly looking to improve the lives of those living with the disease and those who provide care for them."

To reserve a candle or for more information please call the Rock River Area Branch at 815-285-1100.

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Alzheimer's Facts

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain, and the most common form of dementia.

- More than 5 million Americans are living with dementia. In the State of Illinois there are approximately 210,000 people age 65+ who are now living with the disease.
- Every 70 seconds, someone in the United States is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.
- One out of eight people age 65 and older has Alzheimer's, and nearly half of the people older than 85 has it. A small percentage of people as young as their 30s and 40s are diagnosed with the disease.
- An Alzheimer's patient will live eight years on average and as many as 20 years or more from the onset of symptoms.
- Alzheimer's disease is the seventh leading cause of death for people in the United States, and the fifth leading cause of death for those over the age of 65.
- It is estimated that 10 million baby boomers can expect to develop Alzheimer's disease in their remaining lifetime.
- Alzheimer's disease is costing American businesses \$61 billion a year; \$36.5 billion is the cost to businesses for caregiving, measured in lost productivity from employees absent from work because they have to care for family members with Alzheimer's; the rest is the businesses' share of the costs of health and long-term care.
- More than seven in 10 people with Alzheimer's disease live at home. Almost 75 percent of the home care is provided by family and friends. The remainder is paid care costing an average of \$12,500 a year. Families pay almost all of that out of pocket.

For more information:

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