



Chapter Outreach Coordinator Terri Champion talks to Representative Frank Mautino, Spring Valley, about 2009 Illinois Public Policy Priorities.



Ken and Judy Niekamp are the Chapter's 2009 Champions. Above, Ken shares his family's experience with Alzheimer's since his wife, Judy, was diagnosed in 2005 at the age of 59.



Quincy Branch Manager Dean Akerson, Jr., discusses the need for increased disease awareness with Representative Jil Tracy, Mt. Sterling.

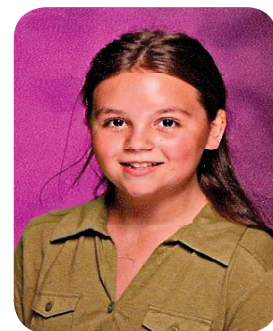
Illinois Advocacy Day Successful in Springfield

Illinois Advocacy Day, March 18th, was an overwhelming success, with over 40 advocates traveling from the Central Illinois Chapter offices - Peoria, Quincy, and Dixon - to our state capitol in Springfield. There we shared our stories with other advocates from around the state and made personal visits with our state lawmakers. If you were part of our day's activities - THANK YOU. We appreciate the support of those who couldn't be with us March 18th and urge you to become an advocate. Your Voice CAN make a difference!

Twelve Year Old Advocates for Alzheimer's Disease

You're never too young to be an advocate for Alzheimer's disease!

Kayla Barnett, 12, accompanied her grandparents, William and Dorothy Radley of Chillicothe, to Springfield for Advocacy Day. While in the State



Capitol she noticed a woman who was wearing multiple wrist bracelets in support of different causes. Kayla approached the woman and presented her with a purple bracelet in support of Alzheimer's disease. The lady with the multiple bracelets was none other than Shirley Madigan, wife of the Speaker of the House. She graciously accepted the bracelet and asked Kayla for her name and address, telling her that she would be sending her a letter.

Kayla's grandmother, Dorothy Radley, said it has been difficult for Kayla and her younger brother, Jared, 8, who live in Cottleville, MO, to understand the disease that has affected Mr. Radley, their grandfather. Involving Kayla in the annual Advocacy Day turns out to be a rewarding and learning experience!

Become an Advocate

Be kept up to date on advocacy issues and have the opportunity to participate in grassroots advocacy activities and state events. To register, visit our website at

www.alz.org/illinoiscentral, and follow the Advocate prompt.

2009 Illinois Public Policy Priorities

1. **Move the State's Alzheimer Disease Plan Forward through Advocacy.**
2. **Expand Home and Community Care Options.**
3. **Expand Training for those Interacting with Persons with Dementia.**
4. **Protect Medicaid and Medicare.**
5. **Ensure Quality Care in All Settings.**