

## Heart of America Chapter Information



In May 1981, seven people who had been touched by Alzheimer's through their experience with a family member came together for the first time. In a matter of months, this group grew to more than 200 family members and professionals and an Alzheimer's Association chapter was formed. Today, the Heart of America's bi-state service area has expanded to include 29 counties in Missouri and 37 counties in Kansas serving more than 250,000 individuals, family members and care partners suffering the emotional, physical and financial challenges of this devastating disease.

The Heart of America Chapter is supported by the community through donations, program grants, and participation in fundraising events. As the need for services continues to grow and the Chapter serves a larger population, financial assistance is increasingly important.

**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.*

### reasons to hope

Not long ago, Alzheimer's disease was widely considered a hopeless condition. It was poorly understood by doctors, researchers and policy makers. People with the disease and their caregivers had few resources for information and support.

Today the Alzheimer's Association, the world leader in Alzheimer's research and support, is the foremost and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and an eventual cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Although one out of every three Americans knows someone with Alzheimer's, few understand the disease or its devastating effects on individuals, families and communities.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative brain disorder that attacks and slowly destroys the

minds of its victims. As many as 5.3 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's and that number is expected to increase to as many as 16 million by 2050.

Today, every 70 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's. By mid-century someone will develop Alzheimer's every 33 seconds.

Alzheimer's disease poses perhaps the greatest threat to our healthcare system but, the Alzheimer's Association is committed to achieving a victory — a world without Alzheimer's. The progress we've made in advancing research, enhancing care and increasing public awareness has been dramatic.

With your involvement, we can sustain this momentum and increase support of the vital programs and services that make a difference in the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's. Join us, and give everyone a reason to hope.

# Heart of America Chapter Services

*Working together with you until we all know a world without Alzheimer's*

## individuals and families

### Mollie Tivol Alzheimer's Family Resource Center

The Resource Center is located in the main office and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to provide books, brochures, videos and other resources on Alzheimer's for loan or purchase. All regional offices have access to these resources and also offer a variety of informative material at their locations.

### Family Connections Program

Families have many questions and concerns about Alzheimer's disease and often need assistance finding and utilizing community resources. The Connections Program offers individual and family consultation both in your home and at our office.

### Information, Assistance and Referral

A toll-free number, 800-272-3900, is answered by staff 24 hours a day. Multi-lingual assistance is available. Contact information for all area offices is listed on the bottom of this page.

### Memories in the Making®

This distinctive and innovative art program provides persons with Alzheimer's disease with a means of creative expression. Experienced volunteer artists work weekly with groups in assisted living facilities, nursing homes and adult day programs.

### MedicAlert + Safe Return®

This nationwide program assists in the identification and safe, timely return of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias who wander away and become lost.

### Support Groups

60 groups meet regularly throughout the area for family members to get together for peer support and to exchange information. Other specialized groups (i.e. for those with early-stage dementia) also meet in various communities.

### Empowerment Groups

Individuals with Alzheimer's continue to have the ability to connect with and contribute to the world. Empowerment groups, each with a different creative focus, provide an opportunity for individuals in the early stage of the disease to strengthen imagination, have fun and make a difference.

### Memory Room

The Heart of America Chapter partners with volunteer area artists, high school artists, and nursing home facilities to create wall murals for late-stage dementia patients who spend the majority of time in their rooms.

## education and training

### Family Education

The Heart of America Chapter offers regularly scheduled classes designed to provide needed information to families of those with Alzheimer's including understanding the disease process, coping strategies, legal and financial issues, and information to facilitate caregiving.

### Professional Education

Training is provided to paraprofessionals and those caring for individuals with Alzheimer's disease in care facilities. Workshops, offered regularly throughout the year, provide information and training on dementia care topics such as disease overview, communication, behavior issues, and activities. Individualized in-house training for facilities and agencies can be arranged on a variety of topics.

### Education for the Person with the Disease

Support is vital for the person experiencing memory loss and those newly diagnosed. The Chapter provides many opportunities for individuals to discuss what Alzheimer's means, how to maintain quality of life, and the dynamics of changing relationships.

## information and public awareness

### Quarterly Newsletter

The Chapter newsletter includes articles on caregiving strategies, research, public advocacy and the calendar of Chapter events.

### Speakers Bureau

The Heart of America Chapter provides a representative to speak on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association to companies, civic organizations, faith communities, and other venues including those associated with Community Health Charities and workplace campaigns of the United Way.

### Website: [www.alz.org/kansascity](http://www.alz.org/kansascity)

The Chapter website features information in English and Spanish and allows for immediate access to general Alzheimer's information, programs and services, support groups and a calendar of events. Online registration for educational programs and special events is available.

## advocacy and public policy

### Advocacy Training and Advocates Network

The Alzheimer's Association and the Heart of America Chapter work to educate society about the reality and devastation of Alzheimer's disease. Our efforts in public policy have extended the voices of persons with Alzheimer's disease and their families into legislative awareness throughout Kansas and Missouri and into the offices of every U.S. Senator and Representative. Through committee work, letters, phone calls and legislative visits, staff and volunteers advocate for statutory and regulatory reform and promote new legislative action on issues facing those with Alzheimer's disease and those who assist in their care.

alzheimer's  association™

the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

#### Main Office

3846 W. 75th St.  
Prairie Village, KS 66208

913.831.3888  
913.831.1916 fax

#### Midtown Satellite Office

6420 Prospect  
T301B  
Kansas City, MO 64132

816.361.6604  
816.361.6627 fax

#### Northeast Kansas Regional Office

4125 SW Gage Center Drive  
Suite LL-15  
Topeka, KS 66604

785.271.1844  
785.271.1804 fax

#### Northwest Missouri Regional Office

10th and Faraon  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

816.364.4467  
816.364.2553 fax

#### Southeast Kansas Regional Office

2601 Gabriel  
Parsons, KS 67357

620.421.6550 ext. 1794  
620.421.0671 fax

**Northland Kansas City Office Hours** Third Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Spelman Medical Foundation, Lower Level, 5810 NW Barry Road, 816.880.6257