

Alzheimer's Advocate new mexico

Winter 2009-2010

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Changes Have Made Us Stronger

As any family caregiver will tell you, change happens.

The New Mexico Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association has seen many changes over the past two years. There are many new faces across our organization — new board members, new staff members and new volunteers. We introduced two new programs, Alzheimer's Art School and Savvy Caregiver. We even moved into new offices.

All of these changes might overwhelm an organization, but not if the organization is solid. And that is what we are, solid. The leadership from the Board of Directors continues to demand that this Chapter move forward in achieving its mission. The staff remains committed to doing their best work every day in order to support those affected by this disease. And volunteers keep coming-giving their time to support our office, Memory Walk and our Golf Tournament in ways too many to describe.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will meet one of those dedicated volunteers. What makes Morgan O'Roark so special is that she is only 14 years old and committed to a cause! She began donating her time to the Alzheimer's Association in support of the Albuquerque Memory Walk. When you read her article, you will see just what kind of force we found ourselves dealing with at our office and you will understand what I mean when I say that we are humbled by people like Morgan and we are grateful that she donates her talents in support of those with Alzheimer's disease.

As we enter the holiday season, we look forward to what the New Year might bring. We resolve to make full use of our new conference room and host trainings throughout the year. We invite you to participate in our many offerings including Savvy Caregiver training. I believe this New Year will bring new volunteers into our community and will give us opportunities to reconnect with friends of the Association whom we haven't seen in a while.

Please stop by the Association and enjoy the art created through the Alzheimer's Art School project. Or come by our Albuquerque office or any of the regional offices and get acquainted with our staff. I hope that all of you will make it part of your New Year's resolutions to come and visit. We'd love to see you.

Happy Holidays!



—Agnes Vallejos
Executive Director