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NEW REPORT SAYS MANY AS 186,380 ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS IN WISCONSIN

Milwaukee, WI, March 15, 2011 – According to the Alzheimer's Association's® *2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report released today, there is startling new information concerning the current state of the disease, as well as a special report on the importance of early-detection.

Growing Impact of Alzheimer's on Families

- Alzheimer's disease is a heartbreaking experience for both the individual with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.
- In this year's *Facts and Figures* report, we see a national increase in the number of people with the disease and the number of friends and family who care for them, which is significantly more than previously reported.
- The new report reveals there are more than **186,380** Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers in **Wisconsin**, and sheds light on the growing impact of a disease that currently is the sixth-leading cause of death and the only cause of death among the top 10 causes in America without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.
- In 2010, caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's in Wisconsin provided **2.2 million** hours of unpaid care valued at **\$2.5 billion**. Nationally, nearly **15 million** Americans provide unpaid care for a person with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia.
- There are an estimated 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, including **110,000** living in **Wisconsin** alone.
- Most people survive an average of four to eight years after a diagnosis, but many can live as long as 20 years with the disease. This prolonged duration often places increasingly intensive care and demands on family members and friends who provide care.
- Most caregivers are family members who take on a tremendous financial, physical and emotional burden to help care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or a related dementia.



Alzheimer's Impact on States

- Medicaid covers nursing home care and other long-term care services in the community for individuals who can no longer afford to pay for long-term care expenses. Ensuring access to Medicaid for those who need it must remain a priority for states as they deal with the escalating Alzheimer crisis.
- Average per-person Medicaid payments for beneficiaries aged 65 and older with Alzheimer's and other dementias are nine times higher than Medicaid payments for those without the disease. While Medicaid costs are \$37 billion today they will climb almost 400 percent by 2050.
- At a time when a number of states are facing tremendous budget challenges, the growing Alzheimer's population will strain state budgets further.
- Alzheimer's has profound implications for future state budgets, and states must prepare now to address the multiple and complex challenges that Alzheimer's poses to individuals, families and state governments, particularly Medicaid.
- While only 4 percent of the general population will be admitted to a nursing home by age 80, for people with Alzheimer's, 75 percent will be admitted to a nursing home, posing significant economic challenges to state Medicaid budgets.
- More than half of the states in the country have developed or are in the process of developing state plans, including **Wisconsin**. These plans will be instrumental in assessing the current impact of Alzheimer's on **Wisconsin** and outlining what steps **Wisconsin** lawmakers must take in the coming years to improve its services and support to Alzheimer's families.

Importance of Early Detection

- Increasing evidence suggests that early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and timely intervention is beneficial, both for people with the disease and their caregivers.
- Early diagnosis allows affected people, relatives and their caregivers to plan for the future, obtain medical care to manage symptoms and optimize function, and assists Alzheimer's families in taking steps to reduce the risk of accidents requiring further medical care.
- The new report explores the issue of early detection and outlines the various benefits it provides families, including access to valuable support services and resources and also helping to reduce anxiety among caregivers.
- The Alzheimer's Association helps newly diagnosed individuals and their families by offering education programs free of charge to people newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's, those caring for someone with Alzheimer's, and individuals with Alzheimer's.



The full text of the Alzheimer's Association's 2011 *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* can be viewed at www.alz.org.

Alzheimer's Association's Facts and Figures

The *Alzheimer's Association's Facts and Figures* report is a comprehensive compilation of national statistics and information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The report conveys the impact of Alzheimer's on individuals, families, government, and the nation's healthcare system. Since its 2007 inaugural release, the report has become the most cited source covering the broad spectrum of Alzheimer issues. The *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report is an official publication of the Alzheimer's Association[®].

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