

Family Support Fund

Why was the Fund started?

The St. Louis Chapter is seeking to respond to the needs of families. Caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease is a 24-hour/day that can exhaust the caregiver physically, emotionally and financially. A caregiver's health may deteriorate from stress and sleeplessness, adding to the challenge and reducing the quality of care that can be provided. Although it cannot address all issues, the **Family Support Fund** helps to assist caregivers by decreasing some of the burden in ways that are most helpful for each person's situation. Through the **Family Support Fund** we hope to ease the burden to families in need by assisting with some of the costs incurred with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

What does the fund provide?

The **Family Support Fund** provides financial assistance up to an annual maximum of \$500 per family (renewable for one year) for expenses related to the care of a loved one at home diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Assistance will be granted on a first come first service basis for as long as funds are available for that year. There are no income requirements for eligibility; however, because funds are limited, it is hoped that insurance coverage will be pursued first, and that applications will reflect a genuine financial need.

The fund is available to assist with the following items:

- Adult diapers/bedpads
- Nutritional supplements
- Durable medical equipment (shower chair, grab bar)
- Safety supplies/services (Safe Return, door alarms, home safety supplies, Lifeline)
- Alzheimer's medication costs not covered by insurance
- Occupational therapy assessment

Items requested and approved will be paid for by the Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter office.

What is required to become part of the program?

The Family Support Fund application form must be completed for approval along with a statement from the physician that the patient has Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

The individual with dementia must still live at home.