

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter

2025 Community Impact Report



TOGETHER
TOGETHER
TOGETHER

Bringing Hope Through Research, Innovation and Connection

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Across the rural communities, cities, plains and tribal nations of North Dakota and Minnesota, we are reaching people where they are — not only with education and support, but also with a message of progress.

Through groundbreaking research, expanded screenings, and new treatment pathways, hope is on the horizon for those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias.

New Treatments and Drug Approvals - Leqembi® (lecanemab) and Kisunla® (donanemab) became widely available in the U.S. as the first disease-modifying monoclonal antibodies targeting amyloid plaques.

Pipeline Growth: In 2025, more than **180 clinical trials** were active, targeting 15 different disease processes beyond amyloid, including tau, neuroinflammation, and vascular health.

Emerging Therapies: Remternetug (another anti-amyloid antibody) and semaglutide (a diabetes drug repurposed for Alzheimer's) were in late-stage trials, with semaglutide offering an oral alternative. **Empagliflozin** (a diabetes drug) and **intranasal insulin** showed promise in improving cognition and reducing tau pathology in early Alzheimer's patients.

Biomarkers and Diagnostic Breakthroughs: New plasma biomarkers (pTau217 and Aβ42/40 ratio) achieved **greater than 93% accuracy** in confirming amyloid pathology, comparable to PET scans and lumbar punctures.

Clinical Guidelines: The Alzheimer's Association released its **first guidelines for blood biomarker use** in clinical practice to assist diagnosis.

This has been a year of breakthroughs — because of you.
TOGETHER, we are turning hope into action.

Stories That Inspire: Hope in Action – Julie and Tim Donahue

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Julie and Tim Donahue of Faribault, Minnesota, faced an unexpected challenge when Tim was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at just 56 years old.

"We couldn't believe it. He seemed too young to be getting a disease like that," Julie recalls. When they learned about a new treatment, Lecanemab, that could slow the progression of the disease, she added, "It seemed worth it to us for the chance that he might be able to spend more time with his family."

Their insurance company denied coverage, calling the treatment "experimental," even though Medicare would have covered it had Tim been eligible. What followed were countless calls to the drug manufacturer, their insurer, their local senator, and ultimately the Alzheimer's Association. We supported their efforts by joining a formal appeal to the insurer.

Julie, a nurse practitioner, reflected on the process: "I can't fathom what this would be like for someone who didn't understand the system and the appeal process."

After several months, the insurance company reversed its decision and approved coverage for the infusion. Now, Julie and Tim share their experience to help others and offer hope to families facing similar obstacles. Today, Tim continues to navigate the challenges of the disease, still spending time at the greenhouse and enjoying his grandchildren. Together, they continue to advocate—showing that hope, persistence, and action can truly make a difference.



TOGETHER, we support those in need—united in compassion, courage, and care.



Walk to End Alzheimer's®

We finished the 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's with a total of \$2,658,283 in revenue across our 17 Walks for our Chapter. Highlights included the Alexandria Walk, which reached its goal of \$42,973, and our Twin Cities Walk, which finished 6th in the country, raising \$1,281,250.



33rd Annual Purple Gala

We had an incredible and impactful night, filled with fun, some tears, and hope. Donors helped raise \$1.3 million for Alzheimer's and dementia care and support, while we honored long-time advocate, volunteer and past Chair, Carole Lee Randall. It was an evening that surrounded guests with optimism, culminating in a performance of "The Light of the Clear Blue Morning" by the Cantus Vocal Ensemble.



The Longest Day - Do What You Love to End ALZ

Our Longest Day campaign in 2025 finished strong with \$441,485 raised through 175 creative fundraisers and interactive challenges before transitioning to a new brand called "Do What You Love to End ALZ," which better reflects fundraising activities that people can enjoy year-round instead of just on one special day.

Volunteers Power Our Mission: They Are the Heart of Our Movement

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At the Alzheimer's Association, we believe in the power of people. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our mission — walking beside us at events, leading support groups, and raising critical funds to fuel research and care.

This year, **1,877 volunteers** contributed **more than 20,000 hours** of service. Thank you for standing with us.



Young Champions Give to the Max

Young Champion Chair and volunteer Connor Shultz shared the story of his mother, Lisa, who is affected by a rare form of dementia called “Pick’s disease,” which helped to raise more than \$45,000 during the annual day of giving for Minnesota nonprofits called “Give to the Max Day.” Young Champions is a group of emerging leaders committed to building a community dedicated to changing the landscape of Alzheimer’s and other dementias.



Giving Hearts Day

In North Dakota, the annual “Giving Hearts Day” featured the story of a well-known broadcast photojournalist as told by her daughter, and inspired \$79,000 in giving to continue no-cost care and support services in the community.

TOGETHER, we are moving toward a hopeful future — one where early detection, innovative treatments, and ultimately, prevention are within reach.



The future will be even brighter because of what we do, **TOGETHER.**

Diverse Voices and Strong Partnerships are Driving Alzheimer's Advocacy Forward

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We are deepening our connections with Alzheimer's advocates and diverse communities to ensure that everyone has access to information and advancements being made in the fight to end Alzheimer's, as well as support their financial, physical, and personal well-being. We are proud to be part of an inclusive and informative movement that is accelerating scientific discovery and legislative action to transform public health.

We are proud to provide individuals, families, and those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias access to professional education, support groups, and vital resources — all at no cost, regardless of where they are.



TOGETHER, we are building a future where Alzheimer's is no longer feared — but faced with knowledge, support, and possibility.



Empowering Communities: Driving Alzheimer's Awareness Through Advocacy, Diversity, Alliances and Strong Partnerships

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In February and March, more than 120 advocates from Minnesota and 25 advocates from North Dakota joined us for Advocacy Days in St. Paul and Bismarck, participating in over 150 legislative meetings in both states.

This year, 7,175 on-demand and in-person educational sessions, 5,939 awareness presentations, and 1,617 support groups helped participants gain valuable knowledge and community support. More than 950 people reached out to the 24/7 Helpline for guidance and reassurance, resulting in meaningful connections and assistance for those in need.

We also reached 1,619 individuals from diverse backgrounds through culturally tailored community events, including Spanish-language presentations that dispel myths and share facts about dementia in Hispanic and Latino communities.

TOGETHER, we are
advocating for access to
treatments for every individual
in every community.

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter

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