Greater Illinois Chapter

I truly believe that the harder we push for funding and national policies addressing the disease, the sooner we will see results that will lead us to a cure.
— Rosemary C., Evanston

Good practical advice. My thoughts are more organized about communicating effectively. I was challenged to put out more effort to be cheerful and also to pause longer when my mom talks.
— Program attendee

It was so comforting to hear a caring voice on the other end of the phone and so willing to provide me with assurance that there is help available.
— Helpline caller

It was great to meet with my Care Navigator. She really understood and was excellent in helping define next steps and how to take action on them. What a blessing!
— Care Navigation client

Our support group provides ‘nuggets’ to help with decisions that affect their lives on a daily basis.
— Beverly R.

What I like best about the support group I’m in is being with others who are having the same or similar problems and experiences and having very kind leaders. They are very helpful, caring and knowledgeable.
— Support group attendee
Today, more than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s. By 2050, as many as 16 million will have the disease. Alzheimer’s is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, with a new person developing the disease every 68 seconds. While other illnesses, such as breast cancer, heart disease and stroke, are seeing sizable declines in death rates, Alzheimer’s is on the rise — a 66% increase between 2000 and 2008.

The picture in Illinois is just as sobering. Currently 210,000 Illinois residents have Alzheimer’s, and that number is projected to reach 240,000 by 2025.

Alzheimer’s is a heavy emotional weight on Illinois individuals and families. It is also a weight on our state’s finances. In 2011, 581,773 Illinois citizens spent 662,523,319 hours of unpaid care for people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias — care valued at $8,029,782,630.

As the need continues to grow in communities throughout the state, so do the services and capabilities of the Alzheimer’s Association® Greater Illinois Chapter. Successful outreach efforts, perhaps most notably in Latino and African-American communities served by the newly-formed Diversity and Inclusion Department, helped expand our reach over fiscal year 2012 to serve more Illinois residents than ever before.

Working closely with the National Office of the Alzheimer’s Association, we have developed and delivered dynamic community-based programming,
continued the success of our signature fundraiser Walk to End Alzheimer’s, helped advance advocacy efforts both at the state and federal level and continued to serve as a source of enduring support, guidance and hope for those who are affected by Alzheimer’s disease.
diversity outreach

The Alzheimer’s Association Special Report on Race, Ethnicity and Alzheimer’s, released in conjunction with the organization’s 2010 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures, indicates older Latinos appear to be about one-and-one-half times as likely as older whites to have Alzheimer’s and other dementias. It also found that older African-Americans appear to be twice as likely as older whites to have Alzheimer’s and other dementias. No conclusive reason has been found for this disparity, though conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes, known risk factors for Alzheimer’s, are more common in Latinos and African-Americans.

To address this, the Greater Illinois Chapter formalized the Diversity and Inclusion Department, which works with diverse communities to bring awareness of dementia and the importance of early detection.

RESULTS

- Held an annual conference for African-American caregivers, drawing nearly 200 attendees.
- Partnered with State Representative Maria A. “Toni” Berrios (39th District) to organize The Latino Community and Memory Loss, a unique education community program in Spanish.
- Trained a diverse group of 17 students to become Alzheimer’s Association Community Representatives and deliver education programs. They presented one program to an all-African church congregation and another program entirely in the language of Gujarati.
- Diversity staff delivered a presentation on Alzheimer’s Disease in the African-American Community at Loyola University’s Summer Institute on Aging.
- Formed a team for translating Chapter education and support materials from English into Spanish.
- Participated for the first time in the Chicago Pride Fest.
- Hosted the first Meeting of the Minds, an education and advocacy event that also included Illinois State Representatives Will Davis (30th District) and Thaddeus Jones (29th District).

‘gaining focus’

Through our Care Navigation services, those with Alzheimer’s disease and their families can seek counsel with a licensed social worker trained in issues related to memory loss. The professional Care Navigation staff provides guidance, support, education and empowerment as those with Alzheimer’s and their families navigate the challenges and changes associated with memory loss.

RESULTS

- 100% of clients were satisfied by the services they received.
- When asked, 100% of clients said they would recommend such services to others.
- 100% of clients said the Care Navigation team helped identify their main needs.

Source: FY ’12 Core Services and Quality Evaluation Initiative (CSQEI Survey)

It was great to meet with my Care Navigator. She really understood and was excellent in helping define next steps and how to take action on them. What a blessing!

— Care Navigation client

Our support group provides ‘nuggets’ to help with decisions that affect their lives on a daily basis.

— Beverly R., Chicago
‘good practical advice’

Educating people about Alzheimer’s disease is one of our most important charges at the Greater Illinois Chapter. Our programs impart information about the importance of early detection, how to connect with those diagnosed with dementia and ways caregivers can find relief from the stress of their role, among others.

Programs, most offered at no cost, cater to a range of audiences, from those with the disease to affected friends and family members, caregivers and professionals in the Alzheimer’s community.

RESULTS

Overall Program Average
- 90% of attendees learned something they could use.
- 95% of attendees were satisfied by the program.
- 96% of attendees would recommend the program.
- 93% of attendees learned something new.

“Know the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s disease”
- 94% of attendees learned something they can use.
- 99% of attendees were satisfied with the program.
- 99% of attendees would recommend the program.
- 96% of attendees learned something new.

“The Basics”
- 95% of attendees learned something they can use.
- 99% of attendees were satisfied with the program.
- 99% of attendees would recommend the program.
- 97% of attendees learned something new.

Caregiver Conferences
- 6 conferences were offered throughout Illinois.
- 1,170 individuals attended a Caregiver Conference.
- 99% of attendees were satisfied with the conference.
- 97% of attendees would recommend the conference.
- 98% of attendees learned something new.

Source: FY ’12 Core Services and Quality Evaluation Initiative (CSQEI Survey)

‘helpful, caring, and knowledgeable’

Support groups, be they in-person or virtual gatherings, allow those with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia, family, friends or caregivers to spend time speaking about their challenges and issues with others who are going through the same or similar situations. Groups can be social as well as educational and are facilitated by individuals who have received training from the Alzheimer’s Association.

RESULTS

- 98% of caregivers would recommend an Alzheimer’s Association support group to others.
- 97% of support group attendees felt safe sharing with the group.
- 98% of support group attendees expressed satisfaction with their group.
- 77 active support groups, both caregiver and early stage.
- An average of 425 people attended groups each month.

Source: FY ’12 Core Services and Quality Evaluation Initiative (CSQEI Survey)
Greater Illinois Chapter

‘a caring voice’

Alzheimer’s brings with it a host of questions and concerns, not just for those diagnosed with the disease, but friends and family members. The Alzheimer’s Association 24/7 Helpline staff and trained volunteers provide reliable information and support to all those who need assistance, with translation services available in 170 different languages. The 24/7 Helpline serves people with memory loss, caregivers, health care professionals and the public.

Callers can speak to knowledgeable staff and trained volunteers about education programs for people with memory concerns, caregivers, family and friends, understand more about memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, connect with others experiencing the challenges associated with memory loss and discover the resources available in the community.

RESULTS

• A total of 7,997 calls came into the 24/7 Helpline.
• 90% of clients learned something they can use.
• 96% of callers were satisfied with the Helpline service.
• 96% would recommend the Helpline to someone facing Alzheimer’s disease.
• 90% of callers said the Helpline answered their main questions.

Source: FY ‘12 Core Services and Quality Evaluation Initiative (CSQEI Survey)

‘we get the word out and fundraise’

Donors are the lifeblood of the Alzheimer’s Association. Generous contributions enable us to bring awareness to critical issues surrounding Alzheimer’s disease and care, host community education programs as well as provide counseling and assistance to those whose lives have been changed by dementia.

Adele Knickels has been personally impacted by Alzheimer’s disease and vowed, alongside her sisters Donna Freeman and Bea LoBianco, to raise money to help the Association eliminate Alzheimer’s disease.

They lost their mother, Rose Freda, to Alzheimer’s disease on September 11, 2001. After she died, the sisters discovered the McHenry Walk to End Alzheimer’s and decided to get involved. Their first year was 2002. It’s now several years later and their team, Roses’ Girls, has raised more than $100,000 to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association and its mission to create a world without Alzheimer’s.

The staggering amount of money has been raised almost entirely via contributions from friends and family. Several weeks before the walk, each sister writes heartfelt emails and letters, asking for support.

“People have been very generous,” Knickels said. “We get replies back saying, ‘Someone in our family has Alzheimer’s.’ It has touched so many lives. And now with Boomers getting into the upper 60s – they’re feeling very close to it. We get the word out and fundraise so hopefully there can be a cure.”

RESULTS

• Forget-Me-Not Tag Days increased revenue by 34%.
• The Chapter’s Point-of-Purchase program grew by 42%.
• Third Party Event revenue increased by 40%.
• Nearly $1.8 million was raised at 18 walks throughout Illinois during fall 2011.
• 12,238 people walked to end Alzheimer’s during fall 2011.

Source: FY ‘12 Core Services and Quality Evaluation Initiative (CSQEI Survey)
‘translate that passion into policy’

Alzheimer’s advocates play a vital role in standing up and calling for improvements in Alzheimer’s care and the quality of life for those with the disease and their families. Advocates communicate with legislators to improve dementia care and services, improve access to community-based care and care in residential settings as well as expand funding for research and public programs serving people with dementia.

RESULTS

• Expanded the Alzheimer’s Legislators Alliance.
• Passed the Alzheimer’s Disease Assistance Act in the General Assembly.
• Worked to protect home- and community-based services.
• Attained a proclamation from the State of Illinois honoring September as World Alzheimer’s Month.
• Worked with the state to collect data on caregiving and cognitive impairment in Illinois’ annual survey.
• Increased the number of advocates who attended the Illinois lobby day by 300%.

I truly believe that the harder we push for funding and national policies addressing the disease, the sooner we will see results that will lead us to a cure. — Rosemary C., Evanston

financial statement

In fiscal year 2012, general donations and events revenue were fairly flat compared to fiscal year 2011. However, in fiscal year 2012 the Chapter received one large restricted donation, which will be used to support programs for the next several years.

FY12 Greater Illinois Territory
Revenues: $10,827,956

FY12 Greater Illinois Chapter
Expenditures: $9,599,626
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