

Volunteer Spotlight

Julie Roznkowski Olson, Lakewood Community Educator



Why I Volunteer

Across the state of Wisconsin, the Alzheimer's Association relies on Community Educators to share free programming with local communities to educate and create awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia. Julie Roznkowski Olson, Lakewood, began volunteering as a Community Educator in 2021.

"I retired in 2020 and my family moved up North," Julie said. "I've always enjoyed working with the elderly and this is something I knew I had experience with and could do." Julie was a registered nurse for 45 years and a geriatric nurse practitioner for over 20 years in the Milwaukee area. She was very familiar with the Alzheimer's Association, as she often referred patients there. She has an extensive background in working with the elderly in all aspects of care – acute care, primary care, and hospice.

"While I don't have a personal connection to dementia, I was a caregiver for my in-laws and I know how difficult caregiving can be," Julie said. "I'd like to get more involved in dementia-friendly communities and see how I might be able to help."

"I would encourage others to volunteer or get involved with the Alzheimer's Association," Julie said. "There are so many resources and the organization has always done a great job with programming. In my career, I've handed out a lot of cards for the 24/7 Helpline – 800.272.3900."

Julie will be providing education for not only the community, but also health care professionals. "The Alzheimer's Association programs are fabulous resources for clinicians of all kinds who may not have experience in dementia care," Julie said. "Unless you specialize in geriatrics, there is often a lack of education for recognizing and diagnosing Alzheimer's and dementia. I'm very excited to be a part of this opportunity to get valuable resources in the hands of those who need it."

"Alzheimer's Association volunteers deliver support and education, raise funds, advocate for Alzheimer's and more to help achieve our vision of a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Whatever your skills and whatever time you have available, we have opportunities to provide vital support for people living with Alzheimer's and their families.

Learn more at: www.alz.org/wi/volunteer