

36TH ANNUAL WISCONSIN STATE CONFERENCE

Award Winners

Diane Baughn Legacy Award – Lynda Markut

Lynda Markut, Clinton, WI, also a long-time member of the Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter program staff, embodies all the amazing qualities that Diane represented. Lynda officially retired from the chapter in 2019. Over the years Lynda shared her own personal caregiving journey with thousands of people, through her presentations and her book, "Dementia Caregivers Share Their Stories". Her support group in a book often brought folks to tears with both sadness and laughter.

Impact Award – Kristen Felten

Kristen Felten has been a long-time advocate and fierce champion of people with dementia and family caregivers – working through policy, training, and grant development to realize her vision for dementia care in Wisconsin. Kristen joined the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in 2006, and became the Dementia Specialist in 2012. In that role she has written and managed several federal grants that have brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to Wisconsin to support innovative programs for people living with dementia and their caregivers. She also created the Wisconsin Dementia Care Specialist Program and has continued to support the program through its many phases of growth. Kristen is now supporting the development of the program in other states. Kristen has also collaborated with several other Departments in the state – most notably – developing a Brain-health curriculum with the Department of Public Instruction, partnering with the Department of Justice to do trainings for law enforcement and first responders related to the Silver Alert Program, training the National Guard on how to care for nursing home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and developing a curriculum for the Department of Corrections to use in training prison guards on how to interact with inmates with dementia. Kristen has done all of this incredible work in support of people with living dementia and their caregivers all while being a family caregiver herself.

Care and Support Volunteer of the Year – Hannah (Tepsa) Peterson

Hannah began her tenure with the Alzheimer's Association as an intern while taking a UW-Madison summer nursing program geriatric course in the Summer of 2020. This was an 8-week course, after which Hannah continued on as a volunteer Community Educator for our Chapter. Hannah started by presenting UAD and 10 Signs, but felt with her nursing background she could do more to help support families, so she completed the training for Effective Communication Strategies and Understanding & Responding to Dementia Related Behavior. Since that summer, Hannah has been providing 1-2 virtual education programs each month, all while continuing her Doctorate of Nursing degree, doing clinicals, classes and working. Hannah and husband will soon be moving to California and are expecting a baby. Even with these monumental life changes, Hannah plans to continue serving as a virtual Community Educator for the WI Chapter until after her baby is born, and then will consider becoming an in-person educator for the local Chapter in her new neighborhood.

Care and Support Volunteer of the Year – Diane Vanlandingham

Diane first became involved with the Alzheimer's Association more than 15 years ago after her dad was diagnosed with vascular dementia. She began attending a support group and became an integral part of the group for many years while helping her mom to care for her dad. During that time, she wanted to give back to the Alzheimer's Association so she began volunteering on our Walk to End Alzheimer's planning committee. She realized that being part of the Walk helped her, and others, to feel some control over a disease that can often leave people feeling helpless. When a local Support Group needed a facilitator Diane graciously stepped forward to take on a SECOND volunteer position and become "Full Mission" for the Alzheimer's Association as a volunteer Support Group Facilitator. She managed the group very

successfully until Covid put our in-person support groups on hiatus. Not to be discouraged, Diane then stepped forward to co-facilitate a virtual support group with one of our Community Outreach Coordinators during the pandemic. Diane is now looking forward to getting back to work as her support group transitions back to in-person meetings.

Care and Support Volunteer of the Year – Valerie Hein Hamstra

Valerie was an Early Stage Social Engagement co-leader with another volunteer, before the pandemic hit. When the pandemic forced this group to end meeting in person, Valerie decided she wanted to do more for the Association, so she reached out to us and completed the Community Educator training. Valerie was then the first Wisconsin Chapter program volunteer to express the confidence and desire to provide virtual education within our Chapter area. Since the beginning of the pandemic thru April 15, 2022, Valerie has provided 93 virtual education programs, touching and improving the lives of 1,878 attendees!

For a period of time last Fall, Valerie moved in with her 99.5-year-old grandma to be her primary caregiver after grandma fell, broke her hip and underwent hip replacement surgery. Valerie spoke to the staff at the independent living apartments about doing regular Alzheimer's Association presentations in their community room to help build more awareness within her grandma's community.

Recently, Valerie began splitting her time between Puerto Rico and Wisconsin. Valerie is now taking the steps to become more fluent in Spanish and learn our presentations in Spanish, so she can volunteer with the Asociación de Alzheimer de Puerto Rico as well as with the Wisconsin Chapter in reaching the Latino population.