



Founded in 1980, the Alzheimer's Association is a voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

Alzheimer's disease is our nation's largest under-recognized public health crisis. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, and one in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Within the Delaware Valley Chapter, more than 294,000 people are living with the disease, and more than 475,000 of their family members and friends are providing them with unpaid care. By 2025, it is estimated these figures will increase by 14.3%.

Diverse communities have heightened risk. Studies indicate that African Americans/Blacks are about twice as likely and Hispanic/Latinos are about one and one-half times as likely to have Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Risk factors increase even further, with added prevalence of the comorbidities of cardiovascular disease or diabetes and poor access to quality care. Within the LGBT community, researchers estimate that there are 2.7 million LGBT people over the age of 50, and that number is increasing rapidly as the baby boomers age and more people self-identify as LGBT. LGBT older adults exhibit several health disparities, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, which increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's and other dementias. Also, LGBT older adults are more likely to exhibit particular vulnerabilities that can exacerbate how Alzheimer's disease manifests and its impact, such as disproportionately high levels of social isolation and stigmatization as they age, making it difficult to find support.

The Alzheimer's Association respectfully requests that the Friends Foundation for the Aging consider a grant of \$10,000 to help provide care and support to families impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other dementia in the Delaware Valley Chapter. These funds will support the recruitment and training of volunteers; staff facilitation during the community forums in support of the volunteers; implementation and evaluation of the community assessment and follow up meetings with the volunteers to discuss results; and providing materials and videos for the volunteers to employ their community outreach.

The Delaware Valley Chapter will increase its reach and impact through volunteer-powered program delivery by recruiting, training, and deploying volunteers from diverse backgrounds to provide support groups and education programs that have helped thousands of Americans to face the challenges of Alzheimer's and other dementia with confidence and live their best life possible.

We will raise awareness about existing tools and resources such as our 24/7 helpline and care consultations which provides help and support to all callers in their preferred language. With more than 15% of Philadelphians speaking a language other than English at home, these services, offered at no cost, are essential services. Last year, the Delaware Valley Chapter received 5,490 calls.

The outreach program will seek volunteers to serve as support group leaders, educators, faith outreach representatives, community outreach representatives and promotores. The program will partner with community organizations including the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church; National Association of Black Social Workers; National Hispanic Council on Aging; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; National Hispanic Nurses Association; SAGE (Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders); and LGBT Elder Initiative, Philadelphia County.

Community Forums will be held to: (1) Listen to the experiences of the community related to the cause; (2) Identify needs, gaps in resources and opportunities; (3) Elevate awareness and visibility of the Association.

Your grant will help the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter to build a robust volunteer force that will increase our reach and impact to help families from diverse communities to live their best life possible with this devastating disease. Thank you for considering this meaningful gift.