



News Release

Alzheimer's Association St. Louis Chapter
9370 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-3214

For more information, contact

Lindy Noel, Communications & Marketing Coordinator

lnoel@alz.org | 314.801.0416

For Immediate Release

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION RECEIVES \$432,000 GRANT FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Grant will provide respite assistance to those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's

ST. LOUIS (March 19, 2015) - The Alzheimer's Association St. Louis Chapter is pleased to have been selected as a recipient of the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) Carrying It Home Grant. The \$432,000 grant will provide funding for the Respite Assistance Program which provides help to Missouri residents who provide care in their home to a loved one with Alzheimer's disease.

The Respite Assistance Program is a statewide initiative among the Missouri Coalition of Alzheimer's Association Chapters: St. Louis, Greater Missouri and Heart of America. The program provides up to \$500/year for respite support or care-related products to families caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's at home.

More than 60 percent of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high and one-third report symptoms of depression. The Alzheimer's Association is available to help identify the need for time off, and pay for the care of a loved one while the caregiver receives some much needed rest.

"The Respite Assistance Program is vital for those facing this disease every day. Caregiving is a rewarding, but tiring responsibility," said Stacy Tew-Lovasz, president/CEO of the Alzheimer's Association St. Louis Chapter. "By providing respite, caregivers are given the opportunity to refresh and rejuvenate themselves in order to continue giving quality care to their loved ones."

Tew-Lovasz also noted that the grant has an added value of aiding Missouri's economy.

"By supporting the Respite Assistance Program, the grant is alleviating financial stress on Missouri's economy because respite assistance can delay nursing home placement. If nursing home placement was delayed by one month for 800 people in the respite program, the state could save more than \$2 million in Medicaid nursing home costs," added Tew-Lovasz.

The Alzheimer's Association is currently accepting applications for the Respite Care Assistance Program. For information on how to apply or additional resources available in your community, visit www.alz.org/stl or call 800.272.3900.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the world leader in Alzheimer's care, support and research. The St. Louis Chapter, a proud United Way member agency, serves 38 counties in eastern Missouri and western Illinois, providing comprehensive care and support programs. The Alzheimer's Association mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. For additional information about the disease, family support or research, visit the Alzheimer's Association St. Louis Chapter web site at www.alz.org/stl, or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

###