Cornerstone Serving Southern Ohio, Northern Kentucky

& Southeastern Indiana

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Social Engagement Offers Bridge to 'Normal' Life

onnie and John Volz celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. In recent years, Alzheimer's

disease has become part of that long-standing and loving relationship.

Bonnie's diagnosis has brought major changes to their lives, notably a loss of freedom with no longer being able to drive. John, a realtor with Coldwell Banker, has



Bonnie and John Volz

adjusted his work schedule to spend more time at home. "Bonnie is very upfront about her diagnosis and we are

gradually learning that folks don't know quite how to respond," said John. "Unfortunately, some friends have fallen away and others aren't always sensitive to how their actions and comments can affect her feelings. She is very sensitive to others, always has been. The disease has amplified that sensitivity."

Although more challenging, the couple still enjoys social activities, a number of which are offered through the Alzheimer's Association. The couple has been attending the weekly Memories in the Making program in Evendale for more than a year.

"I had very little experience with art prior to this. But I found I have some skill and that it is enjoyable," said Bonnie, who worked at Luxottica for 25 years. "I feel like the folks in my group are friends."

In addition to expanding its Memories in the Making program, the Greater Cincinnati Chapter has developed partnerships with community organizations to provide social engagement opportunities for people with memory loss and their care partners.

Continued on page 4

alzheimer's ${ m 8}$ association[.]

Greater Cincinnati Chapter

The first survivor of Alzheimer's is out there.





YOU can help make it a reality.

For more on a Walk near you, see page 6.

Join Us at GABP

he Alzheimer's Association of Greater

continue its partnership with the Cincinnati Reds in the



Order your tickets today as the Cincinnati Reds battle

the Pittsburgh Pirates at the fifth-annual Alzheimer's Awareness Game at Great American Ball Park on Sunday, Sept. 17. The day will include an on-field presentation highlighting the Alzheimer's epidemic and much more. First pitch is scheduled for 1:10 p.m.

You can buy discounted tickets for the game, receive a free #EndAlz T-shirt and a portion of your purchase benefits the Walk to End Alzheimer's. If you have a Walk team, \$5 from each ticket your team sells will be credited to your fundraising total. For details or to order tickets, contact Annemarie at (800) 272-3900.

Order your tickets today: Field Box Tickets - \$30 Mezzanine Tickets - \$20 View Level Tickets - \$15

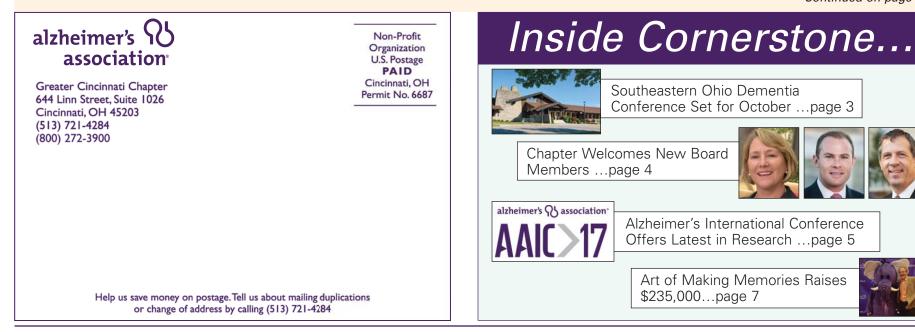
You're Invited to Tour

hen John Toebben's late mother, Laverne, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2001, the family turned to the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati for guidance and support.

Over the years, Toebben, president of Toebben Builders, has shown his gratitude to the Alzheimer's Association in many ways. On the weekend of August 25, he will be



opening the doors of his new home - literally - in support of the Alzheimer's cause with "The Tour for the Cure." Toebben Builders, along with Housetrends, Keller Williams Advisors, the Dwell Well Group and Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Mitchell will host an open house and "first-look" tour of Toebben's new home, located in The Reserve at Rivers Pointe in Hebron, Ky. August 25-27. Continued on page 11



Cincinnati is proud to

fight against Alzheimer's.

A Word About Us

alzheimer's ${\it W}$ association Greater Cincinnati Chapter

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Cornerstone is the official newsletter of the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati. Comments or questions should be directed to Steve Olding at (800) 272-3900 or solding@alz.org



By Paula Kollstedt Executive Director

The Last Ride

've attended too many funerals in the last six months - way too many.

Our chapter's Early-**Onset Support Group** - for caregivers of those diagnosed before the age of 65 - meets the second Thursday of the month,

from 7 until 9 p.m. at our Linn Street office. This circle of friends includes some of the most amazing people I have ever known.

While the journey through dementia is never easy, when it affects those in their 30s, 40s or 50s, the challenges multiply exponentially. Yet these friends find ways

to ease the burden by sharing their experiences, their questions, their wit, their wisdom and their willingness to learn and grow together.

But this has been a tough year for us. Since January, we've lost six people to the ravages of dementia in our support group alone. These incredible people were struck down in their prime. Just as all that they worked

so hard for was coming into view, this terrible disease stole everything that mattered most. The celebrations of each of their lives were

unforgettable. There were beautiful, loving, funny photos of the family - and in the center of each picture was the person they lost, the person they miss, the person who can never be replaced.

And the stories of these lives taken much too soon were remarkable. One was told by a friend about David Bostrom, whom he greatly admired, who had impacted his life in significant ways, and who he was privileged to assist during his illness.

Ken Jones described David as "inspirational" - someone who always had a smile on his face, forever encouraging and mentoring others. That's just who David was, from the time he was small until well into the disease.

When the story began, David was having a bad day. An avid cyclist, he loved the freedom that came from soaring down the road on his racing bike. But as his dementia progressed, this small joy became more and more difficult. David sometimes got lost, or people thought he would get hurt, and he was such an expert rider, that he needed a strong athlete to ride with him.

On this day, David just wanted to ride, but his caregivers felt it was in his best interest not to, and that upset him. So his friend decided - no matter what - he would find a way to let David ride. Ken called his most skilled riding buddy, and he and David got on their bikes. However as the ride progressed, David took on more speed. Faster and faster he rode until he lost the rider with him, who began to panic because he couldn't keep pace.

Finally, when the friend was able to catch up, David had reached the end of the trail. And while he had fallen, the look on David's face, in the words of his friend, "was victorious."

For David the event had been exhilarating, freeing -- but challenging. And though he was OK, everyone knew it would be David's last ride.

All caregivers know about "lasts." The last vacation, the last time eating out at a restaurant, the last golf game, the last time together as a family for the holidays, the last smile, the last hug. We don't like these "lasts," and we mourn each one.

But the days of "firsts" are beginning.

At the recent Alzheimer's Association International Conference, the first studies were announced indicating that one in three cases of dementia may be prevented by lifestyle changes like proper diet, exercise

and stress reduction. In January the first code for Medicare was approved that covers care planning at a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. And in the latest U.S. budget, for the first time ever, National Institutes of Health funding for Alzheimer's research reached \$1.4 billion, with an additional \$400 million just approved by the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the next fiscal year.

Meanwhile our chapter is achieving other "firsts" with a passion - our first social engagement programs, including Memories in the Museum, our new singing group for people with dementia, our first Memory Garden dedicated to those with the disease, our first Alzheimer's Association social workers and nurses embedded at a health care practice, our first million dollar Walk to End Alzheimer's.

And all of that leads to the ultimate first - the first person to survive Alzheimer's.

We know we will get there. And imagine the feeling of exhilaration and freedom when we do -exhilaration for millions of lives saved, freedom from the fear of everything this disease takes away.

It's time to seal the deal. No more "lasts" only "firsts" for us.

See you at the Walks.



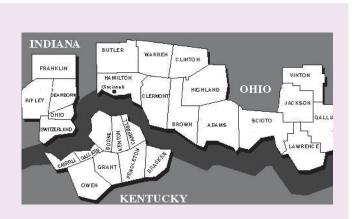
Our Mission

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.

Various programs and services are funded in part by the Ohio Department of Aging through the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and the Area Agency on Aging District 7.



Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio Agency Partner . Answers on Aging





David Bostrom, left, and Ken Jones

Caregiver News

COA Audit Confirms Quality of Our Services



happy summer to each of you. With this edition of *Cornerstone* comes the sharing of my knowledge gained over the last five months during my daily work with the programs and services staff at the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati.

By Linda Turpin Director of Clinical Programs and Services

programs and services staff at the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati.
 High quality care is delivered with each encounter through our social workers and registered nurses. This care is demonstrated in many ways, the first of which is through

Director of Clinical Programs and Services Worker or registered nurse and family members or any other person whom the family decides should attend. Valuable information and resources are shared to assist both the family and the patient with the disease on a variety of topics such as medical care, diagnosis, educational knowledge of the disease, safety, driving, personal care, dietary, legal, financial, home care assistance, assisted living, long term care, communication, behaviors and wandering.

We also share information on the availability of Family Support Groups located throughout the Tri-state area. These groups meet with a facilitator to allow sharing and discussion of daily happenings while providing guidance to more fully understand life's journey with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Information is also shared on our program offerings for Memories in the Making, the Zoo experience and music program. Lastly, our Helpline (800) 272-3900 can be called 24/7 for any help, from crisis situations to program registration and questions of any kind.

Through these valuable experiences and sharing of information we are able to ensure more appropriate care for those with the disease and their care partners. The high quality of our work is demonstrated by the success of our recent Council on Aging (COA) audit in which the auditor found that our professional documentation was clear, comprehensive and complete. Our staff expertly explained and answered all auditor questions, providing confirmation that high quality care is delivered with each meeting through these skilled professionals.

All of this high quality assistance comes FREE of charge for anyone who requests it. Therefore, why wouldn't you call our 800 number for help and support? If you need us, I encourage you to call and meet these skilled professionals who can assist you on this challenging journey of Alzheimer's.

Dementia Conference to Focus on Rural America

he Alzheimer's Association will be reaching out to area heath care professionals and caregivers in Southeastern Ohio with a major education event in October.

With the theme "Dementia Challenges in Rural America," the Alzheimer's Association of



Greater Cincinnati will host its Southeastern Ohio Dementia Education Conference at Shawnee Lodge and Conference Center in West Portsmouth on Thursday, Oct. 26.

The conference, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature a variety of workshops and speakers, including Dr. Leon Rosenberg and Dr. Shirley Neitch.

"The conference is a wonderful opportunity for professionals and caregivers to learn the

most up-to-date information from physicians who are currently in the



trenches diagnosing and treating those affected with dementia," said Melissa Dever, LSW, Chapter Branch Program manager. "The icing on the cake is that the presenting physicians practice in our Appalachian rural area. As a result, they understand the various barriers and cultural issues that play a role in

assessment, treatment and caregiving."

Registration fee of \$40 includes lunch and

CEUs for professionals. Registration to the conference is free for family caregivers (there is a \$20 charge for lunch).

Shawnee Lodge and Conference Center is located at 4404B State Route 125, West Portsmouth, OH 45663.

For more information, or to register for the conference, please call (800) 272-3900 or visit alz.org/cincinnati.



Dr. Leon Rosenberg

Caregiver Forum Discusses African-American Health

ore than 140 people attended the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati African-American Caregiver Forum at Maple Knoll Village on June 24.

The morning-long education program featured "Sister Accord" author and founder Sonia Jackson Myles as well a CAREversations session and more than a dozen healthcare and senior agency exhibitors.



Pictured with Ms. Myles (center right) are Mosaic Council members and Chapter staff, from left: Mary Hernandez, Multicultural and Community Outreach Coordinator Jill Gorley, Yvonne Allen-Smith, Alverna Jenkins, Myles, Executive Director Paula Kollstedt, Carolyn Sherman and Trudy Gaillard.



Presenting sponsor







Caregiver News

Creating New Neural Connections through Movement



ou may have seen fliers for a movement program, or you may have already attended a class. We conducted our third Your Brain on Movement program in the comfortable space of Future Life Now on Hamilton Avenue on August 12. This movement program incorporates movements

both from the Feldenkrais method and Bones for Life training and is solely facilitated by Cynthia Allen,

By Julie Lessard Clinical Social Worker

Clinical Social Worker Intelligence. The Feldenkrais method is offered both as private, one-on-one sessions and in group settings such as the classes offered through the Alzheimer's Association.

The class is meant to move slowly, with no sense of urgency, so that individuals can enjoy and become aware of subtle movements in their own bodies. It is in between these slow movements that one begins to take note of which movements create more ease and comfort and which may create discomfort or even pain. The beauty of the Feldenkrais method is that there is

no "right" way to move – it is all about finding movements that enhance comfort. It is learning quality of movements in everyday living.

certified Feldenkrais practitioner

and senior trainer in Movement

As writer and Feldenkrais student llona Fried describes it in a *Huffington Post* article, "The Feldenkrais Method offers a non-judgmental

way to get acquainted with our habits of movement, a gateway to our emotions, sensations and thoughts. In doing so we discover greater choice and therefore more resilience," (Fried, 2016).

How may this be valuable to someone with a neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's disease? Feldenkrais lessons are all about creating flexibility within our brains. Exploring new movements means our brains are creating new neural connections, plain and simple. Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais said it this way, "What I'm after isn't

flexible bodies, but flexible brains." For those with neurological issues, the Awareness Through Movement classes offer initially easy, always slow movements that uphold the body/mind connection and allow individuals to become aware of their movement patterns while the practitioner assists in "retraining" the body and the brain (Maes, 2017). This is neuroplasticity at its best.

I do hope this evokes curiosity in you and that you give Your Brain on Movement a try.

As teacher and facilitator Cynthia Allen says, "Your experience of life or your body is never a foregone conclusion. You can learn to engage differently and improve your quality of living."

For information on the next Your Brain on Movement program, visit alz.org/cincinnati or call (800) 272-3900. I look forward to seeing you all in a class.

Cahall, Hambleton and Rotz Join Board of Directors

he Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati recently welcomed three new members to its board of directors. Tom Rotz, Matthew Hambleton and Nan Kohnen Cahall joined the board in July. Although new to the board, all three

have been very active supporters of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter. "We are incredibly fortunate to have gifted and passionate leaders like Nan, Tom and Matthew join our board. Their expertise and dedication to the care and cure of those battling Alzheimer's and

related dementias will be a tremendous resource in all that we do," said Executive Director Paula Kollstedt.



Cahall is managing director of Focused Capitol Solutions with Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP. An active Alzheimer's advocate, she previously attended the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum in Washington, D.C. as part of the Greater Cincinnati delegation. Cahall has 25 years of public policy and community relations experience at both the state and federal level, holding leadership roles

Social Engagement

Continued from page 1

These programs include the popular Memories in the Museum program that offers monthly guided tours alternating between the Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum and Contemporary Arts Center. In recent years, new partnerships with the Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati Parks and Cincinnati Parks Foundation, Melodic Connections and Future Life Now offer special programs that are fun and provide low-intensity activity for Early Stage individuals and their caregivers.

"Social withdrawal and isolation can be common responses to a dementia diagnosis for both the person with the disease and their care partner. This is one of the main reasons why the Alzheimer's Association has focused on implementing social engagement programming across the country." said Linda Turpin, Director of Clinical Programs and Services.

In addition to the MIM program, Bonnie and John have made trips to the Zoo, the Butterfly exhibit at the Eden Park Conservatory and a tour of Smale Park with other Association clients.

"All three events were impressive primarily because of the volunteers from the respective events and from the Alzheimer's Association," said Volz. "We enjoyed them."

Turpin said survey feedback from participants shows that this is valuable programming. Not only do those with the disease benefit from spending time with others in a similar situation, care partners report that these experiences are important to them as well.



with Sen. George Voinovich, Congresswoman Jean Schmidt and Sen. Rob Portman.

Rotz, Executive Director of the Kenwood by Senior Star, has been an active fundraiser and advocate for the Alzheimer's Association for the past six years.

In 2015, he was honored with John Horn "Roll Up Your Sleeves" Award for his volunteer work in support of the Chapter's

fundraising efforts, notably the Walk to End Alzheimer's and The Longest Day.

Hambleton, Senior Vice President of Investments for Merrill Lynch, has been active in a number of major fundraising efforts for the Chapter. In addition to serving on the planning committee for the annual Art of Making Memories spring benefit, he has also been active in The Longest Day.



Matthew Hambleton

"One of the care partners in the vocal program with Melodic Connections stated, 'Thank you for making me able to feel young again.' Other care partners have expressed gratitude for providing a safe place for social engagement with their loved one," said Turpin.

For more on the social engagement programs offered by the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati, call our 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900 or visit alz.org/cincinnati.

Memories in the Museum

Designed specifically for individuals with memory loss, the Memories in the Museum program is a collaborative effort between the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum and the Contemporary Arts Center. Each month, with the assistance of trained docents, individuals with memory loss and a guest take guided tours of museum exhibits.

Upcoming tours include:

Cincinnati Art Museum – Wednesday, Sept. 6 Contemporary Arts Center – Wednesday, Oct. 4 Cincinnati Art Museum – Wednesday, Nov. 1 Taft Museum of Art – Wednesday, Dec. 6 and 13 Taft Museum of Art – Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018 **All programs begin at 10 a.m. The programs are FREE but reservations are required.**



For more on the Memories in the Museum program or to register for one or more of the museum tours, please contact Joan Hock at (800) 272-3900 or jhock@alz.org.



Research News

AAIC Presents Latest in Alzheimer's Research

ONDON — New research results presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2017 (AAIC 2017) in July provide us with a better understanding of the risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and highlight the potential to prevent cognitive decline through lifestyle interventions as well as the impact of race and

lifestyle interventions as well as the impact of race and socioeconomic status on dementia risk.

At AAIC 2017, the Alzheimer's Association

announced the launch of the U.S. study to PrOtect through a lifestyle INTErvention to Reduce risk (US POINTER) – a \$20 million two-year clinical trial to test the ability of a multi-dimensional lifestyle intervention to prevent cognitive decline and dementia in 2,500 older adults at increased risk for cognitive decline. Recruiting for the nationwide study will begin in 2018.

"We are determined to develop and deliver a more-specific recipe for Alzheimer's risk reduction," said Maria Carrillo, Ph.D., chief science officer at the Alzheimer's Association. "We now can effectively prevent or treat heart disease, cancer and HIV/AIDS with combinations of drugs and lifestyle. The same may also be true for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in the not too distant future."

AAIC 2017 convened more than 5,000 leading experts and researchers from 64 countries around the world, and featured more than 2,200 scientific presentations. Among the most noteworthy news from AAIC 2017:

One-third of dementia cases may be preventable through lifestyle

The Lancet released the report of its Commission on Dementia Prevention, Intervention and Care, finding that more than one-third of global dementia may be preventable through addressing lifestyle factors that impact an individual's risk. The Lancet Commission brought together 24 international experts to consolidate the advances made in our knowledge of dementia risk factors, treatment and care.

The authors conducted a new review and meta-analysis; they extended current models of dementia risk by including hearing loss and social isolation. They proposed a novel life-course model of dementia risk showing potentially modifiable risk factors at multiple phases across the lifespan. They estimated the potential impact of elimination of the most potent risk factors, finding that roughly 35 percent of dementia cases may be attributable to nine modifiable risk factors:

- Early life: Education to age 15.
- Mid-life: Hypertension, Obesity and Hearing loss.
- Later life: Depression, Diabetes, Physical Inactivity, Smoking and Low Social Contact.

Verbal and sensory skills may predict future cognitive function

New research sheds light on risk factors for cognitive decline and Alzheimer's. New data suggests associations between cognitive status in older people and verbal skills, hearing loss and certain types of hospitalization.

- Researchers found that people with hearing loss were roughly three times as likely to have mild cognitive impairment compared to those with normal hearing. In a separate study, speech content and fluency of study participants with mild cognitive impairment declined faster than those with normal cognition. If these findings are confirmed, hearing loss and speech pattern changes may be valuable in assessing risk for cognitive decline as we age.
- Another study found that older adults may be at higher risk for memory and other cognitive problems after non-elective hospitalizations. These procedures were associated with a roughly 60 percent acceleration in the rate of cognitive decline versus pre-hospital rates.

Common sleep problems associated with increased risk

Several new research analyses at AAIC 2017 found significant associations between sleep disordered breathing (SDB) and the hallmark brain changes of Alzheimer's. Researchers found that, in their study populations, obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) was associated with increased brain amyloid deposition, decreased cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of amyloid (which is thought to indicate increased buildup in the brain) and increased tau protein levels. SDB was associated with accelerated accumulation of brain amyloid both in cognitively normal individuals and people with mild cognitive impairment (data from the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative). SDB/OSA is a modifiable factor that – with effective treatment – may help lower the risk of cognitive decline and possibly Alzheimer's. More research is needed to test this idea.

Healthy eating habits may preserve cognitive function

Results from four large population-based studies support a connection between good dietary practices and better cognition in old



age. A group of U.S. scientists found that, among nearly 6,000 older adults, those who consistently followed diets long known to contribute to good heart health were also more likely to maintain strong cognitive function in old age. Close adherence to the MIND (Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay) diet and Mediterranean diet was associated with 30 to 35 percent lower risk of cognitive impairment in healthy older adults. Researchers from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden

found that people sticking to a Nordic Prudent Dietary Pattern (including non-root vegetables, fruit, fish, poultry and tea) enjoyed better cognitive status.

Impact of Amyloid PET on patient management

Interim results were presented from the ongoing Imaging Dementia–Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS) Study, which is evaluating the utility of brain amyloid PET imaging in a clinical setting. These PET scans are currently not reimbursed by Medicare or private insurance, who have expressed uncertainty about their clinical utility. Researchers reported results assessing changes in patient management (Alzheimer's and other drugs, and counseling by the physician) in nearly 4,000 IDEAS Study participants, who are Medicare beneficiaries age 65+ with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or atypical dementia where there are challenges getting a specific clinical diagnosis. After receiving the PET scan results, changes in medical management were seen in 67.8% of MCI patients, and 65.9% of people with dementia. This suggests that amyloid PET may have a substantial impact on patient management. The IDEAS Study is led by the Alzheimer's Association and managed by the American College of Radiology.

Racial and socioeconomic disparities in dementia risk and incidence

Several studies reported at AAIC 2017 confirm racial inequities in numbers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in the U.S. – even after age 90 – and point to growing evidence that stressful life experiences and neighborhood conditions contribute to dementia risk in late life, and disproportionately impact African Americans.

- Researchers fromWisconsin found that a single major stressful event in early life may equal four years of cognitive aging, and African Americans are most at risk – on average, they experience over 60 percent more of such events than Whites over their lifetimes.
- States with highest infant mortality had 40 percent higher risk of dementia compared to African Americans not from those states, and 80 percent higher risk compared to Whites not from those states.
- Racial disparities in the risk for new cases of dementia, previously observed in the younger elderly, continue into the oldest-old age 90+, which is the fastest-growing segment of the population according to a new study reported at AAIC 2017. Oldest-old African Americans and Latinos had the highest incidence rates compared to Asian Americans and Whites.

Regional shortages of neurologists – Neurology "Deserts" – revealed across the U.S.

Twenty states in the U.S. have been revealed as neurology "deserts," due to a projected chronic shortage of neurologists and a rapid rise in Alzheimer's disease and other dementia cases. Researchers from a digital health startup company created an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Neurology Desert Index (ANDI), defined as the ratio of neurologists to Alzheimer's/dementia population. Wyoming, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota and Oklahoma were revealed as the five states with the most significant projected gap between available neurology workforce and the health needs of people with dementia.

Promising blood test to detect amyloid

Research has established that there is a connection between Alzheimer's and the buildup of amyloid protein into plaques in the brain. For a person's dementia symptoms to be caused by Alzheimer's, amyloid plaques must be present. Currently, a PET scan or analysis of cerebrospinal fluid can detect amyloid deposition in the brain. However, there is an urgent need for a simpler, less invasive, less expensive test for amyloid, such as a blood test. Researchers from the Washington University School of Medicine presented promising findings from their investigation of a blood biomarker for amyloid in a small study group, plus a validation sample.

The Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) is the world's largest gathering of researchers from around the world focused on Alzheimer's and other dementias. For more, visit the AAIC 2017 home page: **www.alz.org/aaic**.

Development News











Walk to End Alzheimer's - Join Us

Adams, Brown & Highland Counties Walk Saturday, Aug. 19 - Walk: 10 a.m. Adams County Fairgrounds

Butler, Warren & Clinton Counties Walk Saturday, Sept. 9 - Walk: 10 a.m. Voice of America Park, West Chester

Northern Bluegrass Walk Saturday, Sept.16 - Walk: 10 a.m. Grant County Park, Crittenden, Ky.

Southern Ohio Walk

Saturday, Sept. 23 - Walk: 10 a.m. Shawnee State University, Portsmouth

Cincinnati Tri-State Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7 - Walk: 10 a.m. Sawyer Point, Cincinnati

For more information, visit: **alz.org/walk.**



The Fun Never Stops

By Annemarie Barnett Director of Mass Marketing Events and Donor Partnerships



t's hard to believe it is already midsummer.

It seems like just yesterday we were visiting The Longest Day team events across the city. Teams were: raising a glass at 50 West, Hotel Covington and Braxton Brewery, getting their Zumba on with the AKA Sorority, playing black tie bingo at Seasons, rocking from sun up to sun down at the EndAlz Music Sessions, hitting the links at the Sullivan-Hambleton golf

outing and swimming laps at the Powell Crosley, Jr. YMCA. Just to name a few of the fun activities. Moe, our purple elephant mascot even made appearances on both sides of the river and brought some of his buddies along. And the Chapter Team, the Memory Gardeners, did their part to raise awareness and funds by setting up at the Omnicare Memory Garden in Smale Park with lawn games, Servatii's cookies, a prize wheel and more. It was a wonderful Longest Day. I cannot thank all of our team captains and participants enough! A special thank you to our The Longest Day committee.

Now we move on to even more fun with "The Tour for the Cure" August 25-27 in Hebron, Ky. We are honored to have John and Dana Toebben open their signature new home at The Reserve at Rivers Pointe to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association. John lost both his mother and grandmother to the disease so this is a very personal cause to him. It is a spectacular house you have to see!

We are also excited to once again celebrate Alzheimer's Awareness Day with the Cincinnati Reds on Sunday, Sept. 17. New this year anyone purchasing a ticket to the game will receive a purple #EndAlz T-shirt! We want to paint GABP purple. Remember if you are a Walk to End Alzheimer's team you can have \$5 from each ticket sale credited to your team.

Of course we cannot forget about our five Walk to End Alzheimer's! We are so proud to have the 11th largest Walk in the country and the BEST volunteers, team captains and walkers. This is a very special year as for the first time we are not fighting against Alzheimer's but fighting FOR the First Survivor. Hopefully you have seen this on the Walk brochures, billboards, and TV ads. The Promise Flower ceremony will be extra special as we unveil the white flower – symbolizing the first survivor. Wouldn't it be amazing to see thousands of them someday? If you haven't signed up yet, please see the schedule in *Cornerstone*, find your walk location and go to alz.org/walk to start your team today.

For me it has been a wonderful first seven months. There is so much hope and positive energy surrounding all we do every day. I hope that each of you will join us in our local movement by participating in some of these fun events as a walker, team captain, volunteer or guest. You can get all of the information on the above events by visiting our website alz.org/cincinnati. Please help us spread the word by liking us on Facebook and Twitter and share our posts. It is only with such amazing supporters like you that we will reach our mission of a world without Alzheimer's. I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

Development News

Spring Benefit Delivers A Memorable Night

early 650 crowded the pavilion level of JACK Cincinnati Casino, helping raise \$235,000 for the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati at the annual Art of

Making Memoires benefit on May 4. Guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner by the bite, live entertainment and the opportunity to view and bid on Memories in the Making® artwork and other auction items.

"I'd like to personally thank our planning committee, volunteers and generous sponsors for lending their time, talent and treasure to another successful Art of Making Memories, said Annemarie Barnett, Director of Mass Marketing Events and Donor Partnerships.

Laura Lamb, Executive Director of ERS, took a few moments to thank the crowd and the Alzheimer's Association. Laura also shared that ERS, along with the Alzheimer's Association are partnering with Cincinnati officials, including Vice Mayor David Mann and Councilman P.G. Sittenfeld, and local educators to make Cincinnati a Dementia Inclusive City. This will be a multi-year process that will include public service departments such as the Cincinnati Police, Fire Department, Parks Department, hospital systems and local businesses to ensure that prejudice, fear, and ageism are replaced by respect, compassion, and understanding for our citizens suffering from dementia and their caregivers as well.

Inspired by the Alzheimer's Association's Memories in the Making® art program, the benefit featured the work of individuals in the early to middle stages of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias through a special exhibit. Bob Goen of Warm98-FM served as emcee while Bob Herzog of Local12 served as celebrity auctioneer.

Drs. Liz and Jeffrey Schlaudecker served as honorary chairs for the benefit.



Editor's note: As the saying goes, if you have seen one case of Alzheimer's disease, you have seen one case of Alzheimer's disease. For those affected with the disease, their caregivers, family and friends, the challenges, emotions and experiences that accompany the disease are unique to each individual. In each edition of Cornerstone, we feature an individual's story about their Alzheimer's experience, told in that person's own words. In this issue, we feature Dr. Christian Gausvik, in his own words.

By Christian Gausvik, M.D.

was 17 years old. Mary looked up at me, lips quivering as her brain searched for words. Her eyes conveying frustration, she had an earring missing and a sweater awkwardly out of place.

Yet, just as she did each day when I came to work, her hand reached up to mine, a smile snuck across her 83 year-old face, and Mary asked, "how're you?" Alzheimer's disease had taken her speed, her memory, her independence, but there was something beautiful and revealing in those few words she managed each day. I felt overwhelmed with a desire to talk with her, to show her the compassion and dignity she deserved.

My great grandfather was destined for Mary's fate as well, growing older his memory began to fade and the faces of our family became less familiar. He changed, he struggled and he lost the connection to the man he had spent 80 some years becoming. It was close to home, but it was one of millions of similar tragedies happening across the country, and I could not help but feel that I needed to do something.

It was those sorts of experiences I had as a high school teenager and throughout college working with Cincinnati's older

adults, and my own family, that initially ignited my passion to help others like Mary and my great grandfather. The stories I knew people like them could no longer tell became my inspiration as I entered the years-long journey to becoming a geriatric physician.

Along the way I was anxious to use my passion to bring the community together, and so one night late in a 24-hour shift as a medical student I crafted the idea for a community event to raise funds – but more importantly awareness – for Alzheimer's disease. Mimosas for Memories was born in 2016 and now as I



Dr. Gausvik & Diana Bosse

say I have never been more proud of any one accomplishment in my life. However, it's not mine to claim, because so many family, friends, volunteers, businesses and community members make it possible each year and I continue to be astounded by the generosity of our great city. With each hour I spend working on this cause or studying ways to

begin planning the third annual event for April 2018 for 250 people, I can

help patients my passion seems to grow a little more, and in many ways it has become part of who I am.

For me, the decision to enter on this path to become a geriatric physician was and is a promise to know the medicine. But more importantly, it is about a passion and a dedication to always recognize our common humanity, to care for others as people, to see pain not just as a symptom and to heal sometimes with words instead of prescriptions. It is about showing compassion, it is about relationships, it is about community...and it is about holding Mary's hand.

Development News

Locals Embrace Living The Longest Day

undreds of local residents participated in The Longest Day during the week of June 21. Teams conducted a variety of sunrise to sunset activities, including playing bridge, photography, cooking, bowling, playing music, craft

making, playing games, golfing and hiking. "I want to thank everyone who supported The Longest Day. Because of your passion and commitment, we more than doubled our team

participation from last year and made a lasting impact on our community throughout the month of June," said Annemarie Barnett, Director of Mass Marketing Events and Donor Partnerships.

As part of the celebration of The Longest Day on June 21, the Alzheimer's Association held





a special day-long familyfriendly event at Smale Riverfront Park. With donations still

teams participating in

The Longest Day raised more than \$30,000 in support of Alzheimer's research. Nationally, more than 3,600 teams participated in The Longest Day, honoring those facing Alzheimer's

and their caregivers, who experience the longest day every day.





ALZ Stars Set Pace at Flying Pig Marathon

t was another successful ALZ Stars Race for the Brain team season, culminating with the

Flving Pig marathon weekend in May. We are squealing with glee as we not only hit the \$41,000 goal but surpassed it. Thanks to our donors, runners/walkers and the committee for all of their hard work. Jean Barker, Sue Davis and Jim and Lisa McKale once again ran away with it.

A special thanks to Sue and Julie for co-coaching our new "Couch to 5K" group of fun ladies. We plan to expand on this concept next year. Stay tuned for more details.

A huge thank you goes to the volunteers who ventured out at 6:30 a.m. on a Sunday to cheer on the Flying Pig participants and our ALZ Stars. The Squeal Station was right after the participants



made it up Gilbert Hill- one of the toughest parts of the course. We are proud to say we won 3rd Place in the Squeal Station competition. However, Mo let us know he is learning some new dance moves and has some tricks up his sleeve so next year we will be taking first place.

We hope that you will think about participating with the ALZ Stars program next year. For details, contact Annemarie at anbarnett@alz.org.

Thank you to our sponsors: CapTel Outreach, The Kenwood by Senior Star, ONI Advertising, Ohio Living Mount Pleasant, Senior Lifestyle and Structured Innovations.





Schwalbach takes on California for Jackie's Run

veraging more than a full marathon a day for nearly a week is a challenging feat for even the most experienced ultramarathoner. Steve Schwalbach of Fort Thomas, Ky., has done that on three different occasions in recent years,

including a single-day 45-mile run across Rhode Island last year. The runs were all in honor of his late mother, Jackie, and to help raise funds and public awareness in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

This year, Schwalbach is taking on the state of California in September, running from Lake Tahoe to San Francisco Sept. 3-9. His course will cover 250 miles.

For Schwalbach, the idea for "Jackie's Run," came from wanting to do something to help his mother, who was first diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2001. Schwalbach said that while on a training run for an upcoming marathon that night, the idea came to him.

"I was thinking about what I could do. I'm not a doctor or research scientist who could develop a new drug. I'm just a construction

worker and a runner. I felt helpless and started to cry," he said. "As I ran with tears coming down my face, an idea popped into my head. I would run the state of Kentucky for Alzheimer's and raise money and public awareness throughout the state of Kentucky."

After completing a 220-mile trek through Kentucky in a week in

JACKIE'S RUN CALIFORNIA FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION **CINCINNATI - CALIFORNIA**

2014, he decided to do a similar run through Ohio in 2015, this time a 328-mile run from Cleveland to Cincinnati over eight days. About 45 days before the start of the Ohio

run, Schwalbach's mother passed away. Despite breaks in his training regimen and dealing with the loss of his mother, Schwalbach completed the run on schedule.

In March of 2016, coping with high humidity and above-average heat for much of the week, Schwalbach completed a 230-mile run from Daytona



Steve Schwalbach

Beach to Lido Beach in Florida. Last year, he covered 45 miles in a single day across Rhode Island.

In addition to raising public awareness about Alzheimer's through media coverage of his runs,

Jackie's Run has raised more than \$45,000 for the Alzheimer's Association. To make a donation in support of Jackie's Run, visit JackiesRun.

com. You can keep up to date on Steve's run on Facebook and Twitter at #Jackiesrun.

Advocates Should Hold Optimism for Future



By Steve Olding

Director of

Communications

and Public Policy

Olitical discord in Washington, horrific acts of terrorism and unrest in much of the world, a growing heroin epidemic in many of our local neighborhoods...bad news

stories seem to fill the media airwaves daily. It's enough to make one wonder if there is any room for optimism.

And yet, we as a society still aspire to a better, brighter future, even in dealing with our most formidable challenges, including Alzheimer's disease.

On the Alzheimer's front, there are many reasons for optimism.

After years of underwhelming support for the expansion of Alzheimer's research and care initiatives, we have seen major advances in both over the past decade. In just the past six years alone, federal funding for Alzheimer's research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has nearly tripled to more than \$1.4 billion annually.

Earlier this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) formally approved a new Medicare-reimbursed service allowing those newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease to receive comprehensive care planning services through a medical visit. CMS enacted a new billing code for physicians and other practitioners to provide a series of services for persons with cognitive impairment, including functional, neuropsychiatric and safety assessments, advance care planning and palliative care needs as well as the development of a care plan.

In addition, a growing number of states are enhancing their dementia training and respite programs while many cities are working to become "dementia friendly" communities.

And our influence as an advocacy force only continues to grow. More than 1,300 advocates representing each of the 50 states attended the Alzheimer's Association National Advocacy Forum in Washington, D.C. in March. This marked the 29th year for the advocacy event. In addition to a series of presentations focused on Alzheimer's as it relates to public health and public policy, advocates met with members of Congress requesting a \$414 million increase in federal funding for Alzheimer's research in FY18. If approved, total annual funding for Alzheimer's research through the NIH would be



Advocacy in Action

More than 300 advocates from across Ohio filled the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus for the 2017 Memory Day on May 3. In addition to providing the opportunity for advocates to meet with their elected representatives, Memory Day included a luncheon program featuring House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (pictured, lower left) and Ohio Department of Aging Director Stephanie Loucka.

nearly \$1.8 billion, closing in on that \$2 billion annual total called for by the research community. We also continue to join other leading health organizations supporting passage of the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) which would bolster palliative care training and services.

In addition to building a stronger and better informed network of advocates, the Alzheimer's Association is taking major steps to ensure that our message is carried with stronger political clout through the work of its sister 501c4 organization, the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM).

Our political momentum is well documented. But we are to truly succeed in our mission of advocacy on behalf of the millions of families touched by this disease today and the many more to follow, our base of advocates must continue to grow. Today, more than ever, your voice needs to be heard.

For more on the Alzheimer's Association and its public policy efforts, visit: alz.org or contact me at solding@alz.org.

Volunteer Spotlight Darpel Guides Families Through Aging's Legal Maze

he Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati is fortunate to have hundreds of generous volunteers serving in various ways throughout the year. Although we cannot possibly spotlight every volunteer in Cornerstone, we appreciate their valuable support and service. In this issue, we feature Matthew Darpel.

Dealing with the daily challenges of Alzheimer's or a related dementia is difficult enough. When you add the many serious legal issues confronting families, including probate, guardianship, estate planning, Medicaid requirements and long-term care, it can be overwhelming.

Fortunately, many families have been able to turn to Northern Kentucky elder law attorney Matt Darpel for advice.

For more than 15 years, Darpel has been providing legal advice to hundreds of families through his presentations at the Association's "What Families Need to Know - When the Diagnosis is Alzheimer's Disease or another Dementia" program.

"Matt has become someone the community relies on. Navigating the proper path of care for someone with dementia is complicated, at best. When you layer in the additional dynamics of legal concerns, it can become unbearable," said Clinical Outreach Director Elise Sebastian. "Matt volunteering to educate our community on these issues has helped even the playing field for these families tremendously."



Matthew Darpel

Darpel, an attorney and financial advisor whose office is based in Crestview Hills, Ky., specializes in elder law and estate planning. Having lost his grandmother to the disease and his mother currently in the later stage of Alzheimer's, he is well aware of the personal toll this disease takes on families.

"It is certainly bad enough when a family member has to be admitted to a nursing home, but the thought that it could be financially ruinous makes it worse. More often than not, the information I provide gives families hope that they will not be left destitute," he said.

As someone who has used the services of the

Darpel Alzheimer's Association program staff, including family care consultations, Darpel often refers clients who are caring for someone with dementia to the Greater Cincinnati Chapter.

"The most gratifying aspect of doing these presentations is providing people with information on how to best plan for the legal and financial issues they face. The stress of dealing with daily care issues is difficult enough," he said.

A life-long Northern Kentuckian, Darpel is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University and Chase College of Law. A practicing attorney for more than 30 years, he and his wife, Mary, live in Edgewood with their three daughters.

The Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati is always in need of volunteers for certain projects and tasks. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Annemarie at anbarnett@alz.org or call her at (513) 721-4284.

Donor Recognition

TThe Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati depends on friends in our community to help support Chapter programs and services through donations, tributes, memorials and bequests.

It is with deep gratitude that we recognize the following individuals, companies and foundations who made contributions as well as memorial and tribute gifts between March 15 and July 10, 2017.

We have made every effort to acknowledge contributions and spell names correctly. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please contact Annemarie Barnett at anbarnett@alz.org or (800) 272-3900.

With every dollar you donate, we promise to offer help and hope. Thank you very much for being a vital part of our vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

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10 · Cornerstone · Summer 2017

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The Tour for the Cure

Continued from page 1

The house is the first home in an eight-lot private community called The Reserve at Rivers Pointe. It's connected by a walking trail to Rivers Pointe Estate, which comprises 450 wooded acres with more than a mile of sites overlooking the Ohio River. The Toebben home not only overlooks the Ohio, but a stable with horses as well.

"The Alzheimer's Association has been very supportive of my family and their programs staff helped us cope with a very difficult situation," said Toebben. "We know what this disease is like first hand. We want to support the Alzheimer's Association. We want to help them find a cure, while caring for those battling this terrible disease."

There will be a special VIP event on Friday, Aug. 25 that includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and complimentary valet parking from 5-9 p.m. Admission is \$100. The tour continues on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. Admission those days is \$25 in advance; \$35 at the door. To register, visit Eventbrite.com and search for The Tour for a Cure or call (800) 272-3900.

"We are deeply grateful to the Toebben family for this generous philanthropic effort in support of the care and cure of those battling Alzheimer's," said Paula Kollstedt, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati.

To attend or for more information on the home tour or the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati, call (800) 272-3900.

Program Calendar

Family and Professional Education

What Families Need to Know... When the Diagnosis is Alzheimer's Disease or Another Dementia

What: An educational series for families of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. Separate topics are presented at each session. **Cost:** Free, but advance registration is required.

Contact: To register for a program, download a registration form at alz.org/cincinnati or call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900.

Northern Kentucky

Where: St. Elizabeth Healthcare Edgewood (Conference Rooms L & M), 1 Medical Village Dr., Edgewood, KY 41017

When: Saturdays, Aug. 19 & 26 (two-part series) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hamilton County, OH

Where: Alzheimer's Association (3rd floor conference room) 644 Linn St. Cincinnati, OH 45203

When: Saturdays, Sept. 23 & 30 (two-part series) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Writing our Lives as Caregivers

What: An opportunity to use writing to reflect on your journey are a caregiver. No previous writing experience required.

Where: The MeriElders Senior Center, 6923 Madisonville Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45227

When: Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Cost: Free, but advance registration is required

Contact: Call Kristin Cooley at (800) 272-3900 for additional information. To register, download a registration form at alz.org/cincinnati or call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900.

Living with Alzheimer's Disease: Late Stage

What: A program on the challenges of providing meaningful connection for the person with late stage Alzheimer's and the family.

Where: Alzheimer's Association (3rd floor conference room) 644 Linn St. Cincinnati, OH 45203

When: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Free, but advance registration is required.

Contact: To register for a program, download a registration form at alz.org/ cincinnati or call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900.

The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease

What: A general overview of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias **Where:** Alzheimer's Association (3rd floor conference room) 644 Linn St. Cincinnati, OH 45203

When: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Free, but advance registration is required.

Contact: To register for a program, download a registration form at alz.org/ cincinnati or call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900.

Holiday Celebrations and Other Family Gatherings

What: Discover ways to make holiday and other family gatherings less stressful and more enjoyable for families coping with Alzheimer's or other dementias

Where: Alzheimer's Association (3rd floor conference room) 644 Linn St. Cincinnati, OH 45203

When: Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Free, but advance registration is required.

Contact: To register for a program, download a registration form at alz.org/ cincinnati or call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Lunch and Learn for Professionals

What: Holzer Medical Center, 500 Burlington Rd., Jackson, OH, 1st Floor Education Room

Topic: Activities in Dementia Care

When: Tuesday, Sept. 12, Noon -1 p.m.

Cost: Free, pre-registration is required, lunch included **Contact:** To register for a program, call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900 or email mdever@alz.org.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Lunch and Learn for Families

What: These programs will provide an opportunity for families and caregivers to learn and ask questions about Alzheimer's disease and dementia, while receiving support from others in similar situations. You are invited to attend any or all of the programs listed below.

Jackson County, OH

Where: Holzer Medical Center, 500 Burlington Rd., Jackson OH, 1st Floor Education Room

Topic: Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior **When:** Tuesday, Aug. 29, Noon-1:30 p.m.

Cost: Free, pre-registration is required, lunch included

Contact: To register for a program, call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900 or email mdever@alz.org.

Scioto County

Where: Southern Ohio Medical Center, East Campus- Gibson Building, 2201 27th Street, Portsmouth OH 45662
Topic: Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior
When: Tuesday, Oct. 10, Noon-1 p.m.
Cost: Free, pre-registration is required, lunch included
Contact: To register for a program, call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900 or email mdever@alz.org.

Lawrence County, OH

Where: Ohio University Southern Campus- Collins Building, Ohio Room, 1st floor 1804 Liberty Avenue, Ironton OH 45638

Topic: Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers: Late Stage

When: Thursday, Oct. 12, Noon-1 p.m.

Cost: Free, pre-registration is required, lunch included

Contact: To register for a program, call the Cincinnati office at (800) 272-3900 or email mdever@alz.org.

Living with Alzheimer's/Dementia: Early Stage

What: A six-week series of education/support sessions for individuals diagnosed in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease or another dementia and their primary caregivers. Participants must have an awareness of their diagnosis and a willingness to discuss it.

Where: Alzheimer's Association, 644 Linn Street –10th Floor Conference Room, Cincinnati, OH

When: Tuesdays, Sept. 19 – Oct. 24 from 10-11 a.m.

Cost: Free, but advance registration is required.

Contact: Shannon Braun at sbraun@alz.org or (800) 272-3900 for additional information.

Family Support Group Facilitator Training

What: Education program for those interested in facilitating dementia family caregiver support groups. Approved for continuing education for social workers in Ohio.

Where: Alzheimer's Association, 644 Linn Street –12th Floor Conference Room, Cincinnati, OH

When: Thursday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Cost: \$30

Contact: Kristin Cooley at kcooley@alz.org or (800) 272-3900 for additional information.

Community Education

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from Research

What: Health of the brain and the body are connected. Research is providing insights into how to optimize our physical and cognitive health as we age. This program provides recommendations in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement for promoting healthy aging. **Program can be scheduled by request at community locations.**

Cost: Free

Contact: Contact Janet Milne at (800) 272-3900 or jmilne@alz.org to schedule a program.

12 · Cornerstone · Summer 2017