# About the Alzheimer's Association®

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Founded in 1980 by a group of family caregivers and individuals interested in research, the Association includes our headquarters in Chicago, a public policy office in Washington, D.C., and a presence in communities across the country.

Currently, an estimated 47 million people worldwide are living with dementia. In the United States alone, more than 5 million have Alzheimer's, and over 15 million are serving as their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association addresses this global epidemic by providing education and support to the millions who face dementia every day, while advancing critical research toward methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

## We provide care and support to those affected.

- Our 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900), staffed by master's-level clinicians and specialists, offers confidential support and information on a variety of topics, including treatments and clinical studies, care strategies, and legal, financial and care planning. Annually, the Helpline receives more than 310,000 calls.
- Our award-winning website at alz.org® is a rich resource that helps inform and educate multiple audiences, including those with the disease, caregivers and professional health care providers.
- We offer MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return®, a 24-hour nationwide emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias who may wander and get lost or have a medical emergency.
- The Alzheimer's Association Green-Field Library, the nation's largest devoted to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, provides reference and research services that are accessible virtually.
- We host face-to-face support groups and educational sessions in communities nationwide.
- Our Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Center, a comprehensive online resource for anyone who cares for a person with dementia, covers all stages of the disease and provides access to helpful tools, including:
  - o ALZConnected®, an online community where people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers can ask questions, connect with others and find support.
  - O Alzheimer's Navigator®, an online program that helps those facing the disease to determine their needs and develop an action plan.
  - o Community Resource Finder, a comprehensive database of programs and services, housing and care services, and legal experts.

### We accelerate research across the globe.

• We are the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research. Since 1982, our International Research Grant Program has committed over \$350 million to more than



- 2,300 best-of-field grant proposals, leading to exciting advances including the development of Pittsburgh Compound B (PIB), the first radiotracer capable of showing beta-amyloid in the living brain during a PET scan.
- The Alzheimer's Association International Conference® (AAIC®) is the world's largest conference of its kind, bringing researchers together to report on groundbreaking studies. The conference has served as a platform for major milestones in Alzheimer's research, including the release of new diagnostic criteria.
- We lead the World Wide Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (WW-ADNI),
  a consortium of international Alzheimer's investigators. The sharing of ADNI data
  across the globe has demonstrated a significant return on investment, enabling
  researchers who lack current funding to participate in and benefit from progress in the
  field.

#### We advocate for the needs and rights of people facing Alzheimer's.

- The Association helps to pass landmark legislation such as the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which mandated the creation of a national plan to fight Alzheimer's disease. The plan addresses the rapidly escalating Alzheimer's crisis and coordinates efforts toward its first goal to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's by 2025.
- We call for an increased commitment to Alzheimer's funding from the federal government. In 2015, the Association helped secure a historic \$350 million increase for Alzheimer's disease research funding.
- We illustrate the need for critical research and additional funding of the field. The
  Association was a driving force behind the passage of the Alzheimer's Accountability
  Act, which allows expert scientists at the National Institutes of Health to directly
  communicate with Congress about the resources needed to achieve the first goal of the
  national Alzheimer's plan.
- We demand better access to diagnosis and care planning through legislation such as the Health Outcomes, Planning and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act. Most people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias have not been diagnosed, preventing them from accessing the best treatments and planning for the future.

#### Join the cause. Visit alz.org.

- Connect with the Association in your community to participate in a support group, attend one of our educational workshops or explore volunteer opportunities.
- Advocate for those affected by Alzheimer's and urge legislators to make the disease a national priority.
- Participate in Walk to End Alzheimer's® or The Longest Day® to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.
- Donate to advance vital research and further care and support programs.

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