Thank You for Funding Services & Science
A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.

Year’s end is a time for both looking back and looking forward, reflecting on the accomplishments of the past while shaping the course for the future.

I’m enormously proud of AFA’s impact in 2022, our 20th anniversary year, and the vision of our founder, Board Chairman Bert Brodsky—an impact that you helped make possible. As I write this, with your support, we have already:

- Invested over $1.2 million in new Alzheimer’s research projects to find new treatments.
- Delivered over $325,000 in grants for vital community-based services across the country, such as respite care, therapeutic and activity programming, and wandering prevention programs.
- Awarded nearly $90,000 in college scholarships to 117 high school seniors who have been impacted by Alzheimer’s and other dementia-related illnesses.
- Provided support to thousands of individuals through the AFA Helpline by phone, webchat, text message, and email.
- Hosted a total of over 40 different Care Connection webinars and live interactive webinar trainings that provided useful, practical information to help thousands of family and professional caregivers elevate the level of care they provide.
- Nearly doubled our professional training offerings to help dementia care professionals enhance their skills.
- Launched a new “AFA Fireside Chat” educational and informational web series designed to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s and related dementias, the symptoms associated with these diseases, healthcare disparities, and resources available to help.
- Provided information on topics such as Alzheimer’s disease, brain health and wellness, caregiving, and advance planning to people across the country through 10 different Educating America Tour conferences.

And much more!

We remain grateful and touched that you and so many others support our work and make all of this possible. Please enjoy reading about some of the methods and motivations that our supporters are using to make a difference. Looking forward to an even more impactful 2023!

My best to you and your families,

AFA is here for you. alzfdn.org

CALL US
AFA Helpline, 7 days a week: 866-232-8484
Text us: 646-586-5283
Webchat:  alzfdn.org
Webchat and text features available in 90+ languages.

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HELP US DO MORE! Give the gift of love, care & hope! All of this is made possible by the generosity of our donors.

If you’d like to make a charitable gift, please use the reply envelope inside this publication, or go to alzfdn.org/donate

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Sciences at the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research are working to find solutions—expanding research efforts into developing new treatments to address these troubling symptoms. Led by Dr. Jeremy Koppel, the new study, funded by a $998,156 grant awarded by AFA in January 2022, builds on previous research the team conducted from 2016-2021 that found a link between abnormal tau protein in brain regions and psychosis. A $500,000 AFA grant funded that research.

“The funding provided by AFA made our work possible; and the ongoing support is critical, allowing us to do the necessary research to translate these discoveries into safe and effective treatments for patients and caregivers,” said Dr. Koppel.

Over the next five years, researchers will further investigate the association between abnormal tau proteins and psychosis using advanced tau PET imaging technology. The study is comprised of three types of participants—those with both Alzheimer’s and psychosis, those with Alzheimer’s but without psychosis, and healthy controls between the ages of 65 and 85.
AFA Grants Supporting Care and Services Nationwide

Your generosity is making an impact in communities across the country.

Each year, AFA awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants through four different grant programs to support programs and services that help families affected by Alzheimer’s disease nationwide, from the largest cities to small rural communities.

Thus far in 2022, AFA has awarded over $325,000 in grant funding to support community-based services such as memory cafes, respite care, music therapy, art therapy, and educational and counseling programs offered by its nonprofit member organizations. AFA member organizations include nonprofits, area agencies on aging, not-for-profit care settings, governmental agencies, and more.

Grant funding also supports Project Lifesaver programs, which are public safety initiatives offered by police departments, sheriff’s offices, fire departments, search and rescue agencies, and emergency management agencies that protect individuals living with dementia who are prone to wandering.

“We are grateful for the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America’s support of our programs. Studies show that 83% of dementia care is from a loved one’s family and friends, so it is absolutely vital to provide families with the tools and resources they need to thrive.”

–Katie Scott, MPH, President, Interfaith CarePartners, Houston, TX

“We are incredibly grateful to AFA for helping us continue sharing the healing power of music with so many seniors.”

–Jill Dover, Executive Director, Senior Sing-A-Long, Wyoming, MI

“Project Lifesaver has proven to be an essential tool when it comes to locating those who have wandered off. Through this grant, we can expand the program and keep offering this valuable service to those who need it.”

–Don Reynolds, Laurens County Sheriff, Laurens, SC

Clockwise from page 3 top left: Art for the Journey, Midlothian, VA; HealthRHYTHMS drumming program at Alzheimer’s & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana, South Bend, IN; Minds Matter at Magnolia Memory Care, Fort Hill, SC; Art for the Journey, Midlothian, VA; Project Lifesaver at Sagadahoc County Sheriff’s Office, Bath, ME; Music therapy at Alzheimer’s Alliance of Smith County, Tyler, TX

As of press time

2022 AFA GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ablemarle County Sheriff’s Office
Charlottesville, VA
Air Force Enlisted Village
Shalimar, FL
Alzheimer’s Alliance of Smith County
Tyler, TX
Alzheimer’s Alliance Tri-State Area
Texarkana, TX
Alzheimer’s Community Care
West Palm Beach, FL
Alzheimer’s Service Center
Morrow, GA
Alzheimer’s & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana
South Bend, IN
Art for the Journey
Midlothian, VA
Artisan Mind
Placerville, CA
Barrington Area Council on Aging
Barrington, IL
Brooke County Emergency Management Agency
Weisburg, WV
Caregiver Relief Program
of Bedford County
Shelbyville, TN
CJE SeniorLife
Chicago, IL
Clinton County Sheriff’s Office
Plattsburgh, NY
Doggies for Dementia Foundation
Aledo, TX
Giving Voice Initiative
Edina, MN
Insight Memory Care Center
Fairfax, VA
Interfaith CarePartners
Houston, TX
Laurens County Sheriff’s Office
Laurens, SC
Long Island Museum of American Art, History & Carriages
Stony Brook, NY
Magnolia Memory Care
Fort Hill, SC
Maine Warden Service
Greenville, ME
Memory Matters
Hilton Head Island, SC
Pastime Club
Minocqua, WI
Peachtree Christian Health
Duluth, GA
Riverstone Senior Life Services
New York, NY
Sagadahoc County Sheriff’s Office
Bath, ME
Seasons Hospice Foundation
Rosemont, IL
Senior Sing-A-Long
Wyoming, MI
Sing For Your Seniors
New York, NY
Social Ecological Economic Development Corporation
Duncan, OK
Songs & Smiles
Grapevine, TX
SoutheastHEALTH Foundation
Cape Girardeau, MO
Team Suzy
Auburn Hills, MI
The ARK of South Carolina
Summerville, SC

*as of press time
$250K Research Grant Awarded to Uncover APP’s Role in Alzheimer’s

Researchers at The City College of New York (CCNY) are undertaking a new project aimed at learning more about the role that disrupting amyloid precursor protein (APP) plays in causing Alzheimer’s disease. The research, supported by a $250,000 AFA grant awarded in July, could potentially lead to the development of new medications to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

The APP gene family is essential for viability in mammals, but its function is unclear. Mutations in the genes for APP and in the enzymes that interact with APP have been found in familial Alzheimer’s disease (a form of Alzheimer’s that is linked to genes and affects at least two generations of a family), suggesting that disruption of APP can lead to Alzheimer’s disease.

“An estimated 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease and that number is estimated to almost double within the next few decades. This grant from the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America will support the important research being led by Professor Christine Li and her research team,” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Communications Dee Dee Mozeleski, who is also the executive director of The Foundation for City College, Inc.

The project aims to identify the role that APP plays in brain health and Alzheimer’s disease using the C. elegans model system. This research can then be translated into discoveries in mammals that could potentially lead to the development of new medications to treat Alzheimer’s that do not interfere with APP function.

“We are immensely grateful to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America and its donors for their support of our research. Alzheimer’s disease is a devastating disease not only to the individual, but to the family. All different avenues of research must be pursued to identify possible therapies to alleviate symptoms and, ultimately, to find a cure,” said Christine Li, PhD, principal investigator and professor, CCNY Department of Biology.

AFA is able to award research grants such as this through the generosity of individuals and organizations. To make a donation to support AFA’s research efforts, as well as programs and services for families affected by Alzheimer’s disease, visit www.alzfdn.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope.

When David German’s wife, Linda, was diagnosed with young-onset Alzheimer’s disease in 2014, she was an intelligent, successful woman—a top executive at a Fortune 500 company—and a loving spouse and mother.

But a few years before the diagnosis David and daughter, Emmy, had noticed her changing. “She became uncharacteristically confused, forgetful and agitated,” he said. As these symptoms grew more persistent, they took her to the doctor and found out that she had Alzheimer’s.

“Early on, we understood that we could not handle this alone. This disease is so debilitating, not only for the person living with Alzheimer’s, but for the caregiver too,” he said, adding that during the seven years Linda lived with Alzheimer’s AFA was a tremendous resource for the family.

“AFA’s Helpline social workers were always there to provide guidance, support and answers to our questions. I still call them regularly.

“The virtual activity and therapeutic programs were a tremendous resource for both Linda and me when the COVID-19 pandemic kept us isolated at home for months. Alzheimer’s TODAY magazine delivered numerous helpful caregiving tips.”
AFA Awards Nearly $90,000 in Scholarships to Teens Impacted by Alzheimer’s

Anyone can positively influence the lives of others, regardless of age.

In recognition of making a difference for individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, 117 recent high school graduates received nearly $90,000 in college scholarships through AFA’s 2022 Teen Alzheimer’s Awareness Scholarship contest. Each shared their story of how Alzheimer’s touched their lives. Some highlights below:

Honor Society Raises Funds in Honor of Teacher’s Mom

As the advisor to the Hispanic Honor Society, Rosanna Farnese works with students with outstanding achievements in Spanish and in their overall academic studies. She’s also teaching them about something deeply personal to her and not usually part of the curriculum at New Jersey’s Palisades Park Junior/Senior High School. She has introduced them to the debilitating effects of dementia, and they have responded by becoming AFA fundraisers.

Farnese’s mother, Rosina Vinci, was diagnosed with dementia in 2014 and died the following year. “Since then, I have been raising money with members of the Hispanic Honor Society for your foundation,” she said. “We are happy to help you and all the researchers that are working so hard to find a cure for this terrible disease. We all hope that someday you will find a cure for it.”

The students held a Hispanic food sale on May 5 for AFA. More recently, on Nov. 2, they put on a Dia de los Muertos bake sale for Alzheimer’s Awareness Month. For their efforts AFA awarded the Society with a plaque.

“I strive to be the best student and teammate possible as I remember what my grandmother gave up to give my mom her best shot. My drive to be the best person I can be, not just for myself, but for those around me, reflects the type of person she was.”

Mary Catherine Willis
McDonough, GA
FIRST PLACE
$5,000 scholarship

“Even though our shared memories have started to fade in [my grandparents’] minds, they still light up every time they see us. Vacations together, beach trips, card games, bike rides, and movie nights will always remain in my heart, even if their minds forget them.”

Julius Josephson
New York, NY
SECOND PLACE
$3,500 scholarship

“Music is important to me, and it plays a central role in my heritage and culture. Even now, when my grandmother might not recognize my face, she recognizes the tunes of her past, opera songs, and the hits of yesterday.”

Jonathan Marx
Birmingham, MI
THIRD PLACE
$2,500 Scholarship

“‘I did talk to them about why we support AFA, and some of them were very sympathetic about my mother’s illness. Some of them asked me if it was difficult to deal with this disease, especially when it’s a close relative.”

“We hold several events in our school. We also donate to other organizations with the money collected but, of course, our focus is your organization since it is very close to my heart.”

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT AFA’S TEEN ALZHEIMER’S AWARENESS SCHOLARSHIP? GO TO ALZFDN.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP.
Dignarians Katie Deeter, Isabel Delaney, Mozelle Cox, Alexis Tuttle, and Cheryl Nally participating in Dignari’s annual 5K fundraising event November 15 in Washington, D.C. with this year’s proceeds going to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America.

When Dignari, a technology-driven, woman-owned small business in the Washington, D.C. suburbs, was considering what charity to choose to receive the money raised by its November virtual 5K, it chose AFA because of the reality that so many nationally are affected by this disease, said Kelly Ivahnenko, program strategy manager.

“All of the nearly 50 members of his Communication, Media and Entertainment team contributed to AFA, raising nearly $1,000. Allen, a software consultant who lives in Denver, handles his mother’s legal and financial affairs while his sister, who lives near their mother in St. Louis, works with the caregivers in their mother’s care facility.

“It’s a partnership,” he said, adding they want to ensure they carry out the desires their mother expressed before her memory faded.

He and his team are counting on AFA to make a difference.

“I know this is a place we could have an impact in the future so this will not be a problem for other families.”

Family photos courtesy of Gregory Allen.

Washington, DC Dignari 5K Event Launched for Awareness Month

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Family photos courtesy of Gregory Allen.
Georgia Law Firm Donates in Honor of Associate’s Grandparents

Each month, Wiggam Law, an Atlanta-based tax law firm, donates $1,000 to a charity selected by one of its employees. When associate attorney Jessica Williams learned she had been chosen to pick the recipient of the firm’s June donation, she knew immediately she wanted a foundation that benefits Alzheimer’s research and support. She began looking and came upon AFA’s mission statement.

“This foundation is near and dear to my heart as I’ve witnessed firsthand how difficult it is to navigate the challenges when a loved one is suffering from this disease,” she said. “As a supporting grandchild of three grandparents with Alzheimer’s, I’ve had a front-row seat to the troubles this causes for loved ones. I had the pleasure of living with my paternal grandparents in Tallahassee, FL, during the gap year before law school began and developed a special relationship with them both that I’ll cherish forever. Unfortunately, while living there, my grandfather’s mental state began to rapidly decline, and he was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.”

“He, unfortunately, know the pain that comes with a loved one suffering from Alzheimer’s and can only hope that the funds raised through foundations such as AFA can bring us one step closer to a cure to prevent others from having to deal with the ramifications of this disease. I am grateful to work for an employer who allows the opportunity for donations that are near and dear to our hearts, and, mostly, for AFA’s hard work and initiative into this cause.”

“Team Joyce is nothing more than a collection of very close friends and family members,” he said, explaining that these were 17 people he asked to sponsor him to take a walk in the woods. “It’s in recognition of my wife and what she is dealing with.”

He found a way to take something natural to him and turn it into a way to support AFA.

Main photo: Joyce and Ed Smith with granddaughter
Sierra Mercer.

Smith family photo, from left to right: Ed Smith, Joyce Smith, son-Scott Smith, granddaughter Sierra Mercer, grandson Lucian Vasileiadou Smith, daughter Jodi Mercer, son-in-law Patrick Mercer, daughter-in-law Rania Vasileiadou Smith.

Photos courtesy of Jodi Mercer.
Walkers & Sponsors Raise More Than $150K To Support Families Impacted by Alzheimer’s

In New York City, an enthusiastic group of walkers gathered at Manhattan’s Battery Park Esplanade on September 25, walking along the Hudson River with beautiful views of New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the New Jersey shoreline.

“The working in an environment where my residents suffer from this terrible disease, I want to be able to give back and promote awareness. I want people to know that just because a person may have dementia, it doesn't mean they can't continue to live a fulfilled and purposeful life,” said Jennifer Jenkins, a member of Team Sunrise at East 56th and The Apsley by Sunrise, on her fundraising page.

Elsewhere throughout the country, individuals and organizations walked in their own communities during the weekend as part of a group or individually.

“We walked to our River Park with every single member of our memory care unit, family and friends and staff,” said Katy Walck, AC-BC, life enrichment coordinator at the Gunnison Valley Health Senior Care Center in Gunnison, CO. “We had a wonderful experience and are going to plan on doing it again next year with more of the residents and their families, staff and friends. Thank you for this time for us to be together.”

Proceeds raised from the walk support services for individuals impacted by Alzheimer’s disease nationally as well as research toward finding better treatment and a cure.

AFA is grateful to everyone who walked, supported, sponsored, and spread the word. Your commitment has made a difference! See you in 2023!
Did You Know?

Each year, MORE THAN 16 MILLION Americans provide more than 17 billion hours of unpaid care for family and friends with dementia.

OVER HALF of all dementia family caregivers provide care for four years or more.

The number of people in the U.S. living with Alzheimer’s is projected to more than double to 14 MILLION BY 2060.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR JUST 67 CENTS A DAY.

Become a monthly donor to help families get the support they need and fund research for better treatment and a cure.

alzfdn.org/donate