



Caring Times

Personal and Dementia Care with Compassion and Dignity

April 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4



Mary Peters,
Founder & President

As many of you know, I have been taking care of the elderly since 1995 through Care For Life. I am convinced that I need to share more of what I have learned about dementia with our clients and the community at large.

The following statistics are from the alz.org homepage and are up-to-the-minute data. As many as 5.3 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's.. Imagine the total if we added everyone who suffers from all other kinds of dementia

Our complicated, and some would add, *broken* health care system is barely coping with the startling realization that Alzheimer's and other dementia patients can expect *triple* healthcare costs after age 65.

As adult children of aged parents, we need to be aware that no family is immune to Alzheimer's or other dementia afflicting a loved one. In fact, every **70 seconds**, someone develops Alzheimer's. Bear in mind that most Alzheimer's patients are diagnosed only when they are in the moderate to severe stages.

How will we afford the direct and indirect **cost of Alzheimer's** and other kinds of dementia to Medicare, Medicaid and businesses? Caring for affected parents amounts to more than **\$148 billion** each year nationally.

I know this might not be the warmest, most comfortable article to read, but how can I not share the task that is coming towards us as a nation and as individual families? Please know that our professional staff, our trained caregivers, and I want to provide our clients, and those who love them, the absolute finest, most compassionate care with dignity that we can.

I welcome your comments and concerns. Please feel free to [call me, our nurses, or our Senior Care Consultant, Sheryl O'Neal \(soneal@careforlifefcharleston.com\) at 852-9090.](mailto:soneal@careforlifefcharleston.com)

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

We want you to get the maximum benefit from our services. Call soon and Let's have a conversation about:

Aged Parents' Concerns

- No child of mine is going to tell me what to do.
- I want to stay at home until I die.
- I don't want to be a burden to my children and their families.
- If I go to the doctor, he might put me in a nursing home.

Adult Children's Concerns

- My parents get furious when I try to give them any kind of advice.
- I'm not sure whether my parent should still be living at home.
- I know I need to take away the car keys and dread doing it.
- I know it is up to me to do the right thing for my parents' safety and well-being. I'm overwhelmed!

My patients have been 100% positive in their comments on their experiences with Care For Life.

-- Leslie Hubbard Pelzer, M.D., Charleston Housecalls, Charleston, SC

Care For Life, Inc.
 1033 Wappoo Rd, Suite C
 Charleston, SC 29407
 Phone: (843) 852-9090
www.careforlifefcharleston.com

In the News



Forget-Me-Not Ball

May 15, 2009

The Francis Marion Hotel
In Charleston, SC

Support the Alzheimer's Association

For more information, please contact the local SC chapter @ 843-571-2641 or e-mail Cameron Renwick at 1-800-860-1444 or fran.emerson@alz.org

- Gina Jamison and our clinical team manages all sorts of aging issues. The best question is *the one you want to ask! Let us be your eldercare experts!*
- Eldercare will supersede childcare as a concern for employees by 2015. Are you a business owner? Ask us about a program with workplace solutions.
- Chemicals contribute to the formation of lesions in the brain of Alzheimer's patients according to the JMA.

What's On Your Mind



INQUIRY: My mom has Alzheimer's and does not have Long Term Care Insurance. Does Medicare pay for care at home?

CFL: Currently, Medicare does not pay for personal care at home. Alzheimer's is a very debilitating and frightening disease. Family members suffer with its frustrating affects while trying to give loving care. Our caregivers receive additional training in caring for the Alzheimer's client. Getting the right information on the best resources is a major part of what we do for you. The best thing you can do is call and let us help you. Call Sheryl O'Neal, 852-9090.



Our Clinical Team



Gina Jamison, RN

Kristin Akins, LPN

The hardest part for adult children is to come to terms with their aged parents' inability to live alone at home safely and independently.

Many families struggle with every aspect of becoming the dominant caregivers and decision makers for their parents. So, the first hurdle in helping families is to help them out of the river of denial, out of their roles as children (no matter their ages) and into the role of parenting their parents.

We go into the home and meet with the care receivers and their families and together we write a long term care plan. The relief in the adult children is palpable.

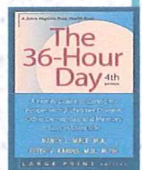
We institute caregivers into the home, and everyone can settle into their daily lives with the assurance that their aged parent is safe and cared for with compassion and dignity.

Questions? Email our Editor!

makins@careforlifecharleston.com

A Good Read

The 36-Hour Day



A Family Guide to Caring for People with Alzheimer Disease, Other Dementias, and Memory Loss in Later Life—2007
Nancy L. Mace & Peter V. Rabins

April Health Care Observances

- 9 Alcohol Screening Day
- 12 Patient Advocacy Week
- 14 Moment of Laughter