

Alzheimer Society

WINDSOR-ESSEX

Mission Statement:

To alleviate the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Role Statement:

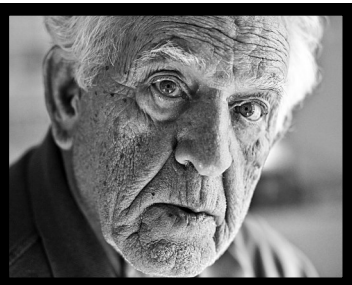
The role of the Alzheimer Society of Windsor and Essex County is to collaborate with all levels of the organization and our local community in order to foster excellence in services, education and research.

Vision Statement:

A world without Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Core Values:

Collaboration
Accountability
Respect
Excellence



Société Alzheimer Society
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY
COMTÉ DE WINDSOR-ESSEX

LOCAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



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The Disease

This is not a new disease. It was first discovered by a German neurologist, Alois Alzheimer in 1906. While performing an autopsy on the brain of a woman in her 50's who had been exhibiting memory loss, behaviour changes and loss of abilities, he noticed that there were some unusual plaques and tangles in the brain that he had never seen before.

Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative, progressive brain disorder that destroys vital brain cells. It is not a normal part of aging but a physical disease that has a devastating effect on the individual, family and friends. There are two forms of Alzheimer's disease: Familial Autosomal Disease (FAD), which can strike adults at any age; and Sporadic Disease, which is more common of the two forms and usually occurs after the age of 65.

More than 5,800 people in Essex County have Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. By the year 2031, it is estimated that the number will climb to over 10,000.

Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a group of symptoms that

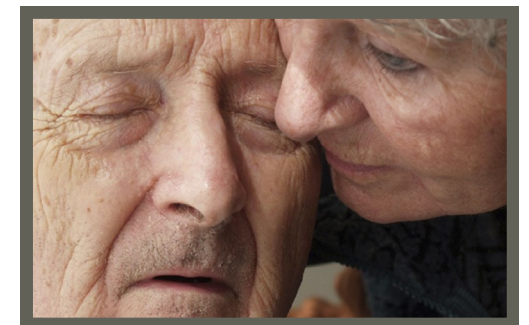
include the loss of intellectual function. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for two-thirds of dementia cases. Other causes include vascular disease, Pick's Disease and Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease.

There is no known cause of Alzheimer's disease and no known cure.

Symptoms of the Disease may include:

- Progressive memory loss
- Disorientation
- Impaired judgment
- Personality change
- Decline in the ability to perform routine tasks
- Loss of communication skills

If you suspect possible Alzheimer's disease symptoms, contact your family doctor or the Alzheimer Society for further assistance.



First Link®

First Link is a direct referral program connecting individuals and families affected by dementia to learning, community services and support.

Whether you are living with Alzheimer's disease, another form of dementia, or supporting someone who is, First Link connects you to health services and information in your community, from the time of diagnosis throughout the progression of the disease.

First Link helps you and your family make informed choices so you can live better with dementia at every stage of the disease.

Support Services

It is vital for partners in care to receive support to sustain them in their roles. Support Groups take place throughout various locations in Windsor and Essex County. Groups vary in times and in focus, including groups specific to daughters of persons with dementia, spouses of persons with dementia, persons with early stage dementia and male partners in care.

Trained staff provide support services either in an individual, family or group setting. Assessments, cognitive testing and care planning services are also available. Office and/or home visits are available. There is no cost for Support Services.

Education & Support

Understanding the disease and its process is an important step for the person with the disease, as well as their partners in care. The Education & Support Team provide education and support, either in an individual, family or group setting.

Education Series are offered several times throughout the year. These sessions provide clear, concise information about the disease, as well as community resources available.

Individual meetings can be arranged for home or office. Contact the First Link® Coordinator to access these programs. Caregiver education services are offered at no cost.

Public Education

Education opportunities are available for the general public, formal caregivers and students. Understanding the disease can aid in supporting the person with the disease throughout its progression.

A resource library is available for the public to access. Books and videos are lent out, or can be browsed within our office.

In-services, workshops and presentations can be developed to meet your needs, and can vary in length. There is no cost for public education. Contact the Manager of Education & Support Programs at 519-974-2220 ext 229 to make arrangements.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are an integral part of the Alzheimer Society of Windsor and Essex County. They assist in various roles — ranging from short-term to long-term commitments.

Opportunities include Day Away Assistants, Day Away Drivers, Volunteer Companions, Office Support and Fundraising Committees/Event Volunteers.

Applicants are interviewed and screened before being placed in a suitable role.

Supported by:



Day Away Program

The Day Away Program provides meaningful and appropriate activities for persons with dementia. This brings relief for caregivers, as well as socialization and stimulation opportunities for those with the disease.

The Day Away Program is offered Monday thru Saturday.

Nominal Fee - call for cost — (519) 974-2220.

The fee includes all activities, lunch and snacks.

Additional services available; bathing, foot care, health monitoring, hairdressing, medication administration, and extended hours.

Transportation is available in some areas at a minimal cost.

In-Home Respite Care

The Respite program provides caregiver relief to the primary caregiver. Professionally trained Client Support Staff provide care to the person with dementia in their own home. Services include: assistance with personal care; monitoring client's safety; monitoring intake of medication; meal preparation; socialization, stimulation and companionship.

Generally, care is scheduled in 4-hour blocks and is provided in the client's home. Hours include weekends, evenings and overnight care with some exceptions for statutory holidays.

Nominal Fee - call for cost — (519) 974-2220 ext 231

Donations

Donations are a critical part of our annual operating budget. It is through financial support from the community that Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network funds are supplemented to enhance the services we are able to provide.

Please consider supporting the Alzheimer Society of Windsor and Essex County through a financial contribution. To discuss giving options, contact the Development Officer.

519-974-2220 ext 225

*Help for Today
Hope for Tomorrow*