

ADAW transfers assets to continue the legacy of service

Funds will support caregiver programs and consultations, social work support to the African American community, and training for dementia care in facilities.

Dear ADAW Clients and Donors,

Since the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin (ADAW) announced our plans to close this summer, we've heard from many people who are sad but understanding of the decision. They've expressed appreciation for the expertise, guidance, and compassion our staff has provided over the last 37 years – and they want that to continue in the future. So do we.

Today, the ADAW is pleased to announce the transfer of our remaining financial assets to organizations that will continue ADAW's work. Additional ADAW assets will be used to support dementia study participants and outreach in Dane County's African American community, while other funds will help enhance dementia care in nursing homes and community-based residential facilities (CBRF).

By transferring our assets to these five different organizations in varying amounts, the ADAW agency will no longer exist, but our purpose will continue. Our mission "to serve those affected by dementia, including individuals with a diagnosis, families and friends, and the larger community" will live on through the collective work of these organizations. These organizations possess the experience, knowledge, motivation, and capacity to help and support those on the dementia journey. They are collaborative and inclusive, recognizing that the journey is a difficult one and that nobody should have to travel alone.

Following is information on each of the five recipients and how they plan to use their ADAW funds:

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Dane County: The ADRC of Dane County is a long-time partner of the ADAW. A county agency, the ADRC, provides information about resources and support on all aspects of life-related to aging or living with a disability. Its staff includes dementia care specialists who serve families experiencing dementia by connecting them with resources and providing information and emotional support.

Pending the introduction of a resolution and a decision by the Dane County Board to accept these funds, the county will use its portion of the ADAW assets to fund an additional half-time position. This position will allow the ADRC to run existing ADAW support groups in Dane County in concert with its Dementia Care Specialist program. ADRC staff will also teach ADAW's Crossing Bridges program, an introductory class on dementia for people who are in the early stages of dementia and their primary care partners.

Agrace: Agrace is a nonprofit, community-based healthcare organization providing personal care, adult daytime care, supportive care, hospice care, and grief support across southern Wisconsin. Responding to the growing need for dementia services in the community, Agrace has invested in dedicated Hospice Memory Care Suites at its inpatient hospice facility in Fitchburg and also serves people with dementia at the Agrace Adult Day Center in Madison.

Agrace will use its ADAW funds to increase dementia services at the Adult Day Center, including care consultations, caregiver support groups, and family education on available community resources. The services will begin in Dane County and, over time, expand to Agrace's entire geographical footprint, which includes counties currently served by the ADAW. Services to the public will be provided for a modest fee, with grants available for individuals unable to afford that fee through the Agrace Care for All program.

Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute: Part of the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute is committed to health equity and improving the quality of life of people living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia and their families. Through research initiatives, statewide memory clinic development, education, and public health programs, the institute identifies and provides strategies to reduce dementia risk and offers access to effective care.

ADAW funds will support an ongoing institute study to understand how health, economic and social factors impact African Americans at risk for Alzheimer's. Specifically, the funds will help finance a new social worker position, which will not only work with the study participants but also reach out to Dane County's African American community, providing dementia education aimed at improving their well-being and longevity.

LeadingAge Wisconsin: LeadingAge Wisconsin (LA-W) is a statewide membership organization of not-for-profit long-term care (LTC) providers whose facility-based operations include nursing homes and CBRFs. LA-W advances the field of services and support for seniors and persons with a disability. The organization does this through advocacy, education, member services, and the development of collaborative strategies for its members and the general public.

ADAW funds will be used to support enhanced dementia care at LA-W-member facilities through a new four-module staff training program, the Dementia Care Champion Course. The course, based on the "Positive Approach to Care" program created by nationally recognized dementia consultant Teepa Snow, is part of LA-W's new Dementia Care Designation System, which publicly substantiates a facility's level of dementia care and allows individuals to select the options best aligned with their needs. ADAW funds will enable LA-W members in ADAW's 10-county service area to provide free staff training sessions in dementia care. With a focus on rural counties, the training sessions are scheduled to begin later this year.

Cairasu All Things Alzheimer's: Established in 2019 by CEO Fatou Ceesay, Cairasu All Things Alzheimer's is a Madison nonprofit focused on underserved individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia. The organization conducts an annual Aging Well Summit to help caregivers with brain health education and resources.

The agency will use ADAW funds to provide financial assistance to unpaid dementia caregivers, supporting them in their own self-care. Included in those funds will be donations that were made to the ADAW specifically for caregiver respite support.

We hope you are as impressed by the plans of these five organizations as we are. These plans align and build on our ADAW mission. They trace the dementia journey from early education to home care and on to facility-based care and, ultimately, end-of-life care. All of the plans demonstrate a focus on providing information, guidance, and support, acting as effective and trusted partners to those they serve.

Our plans until ADAW closes on June 30

Now and until our agency closes on June 30, the ADAW team will strive to ensure a smooth transition for everyone involved. That means working closely with other organizations to find ways to continue our support groups and memory cafés wherever possible. It also means being empathetic and supportive to our employees as they conclude their careers at the ADAW and pursue their next steps. They are talented and dedicated people, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Finally, we will be forever grateful for the incredible support and involvement you have provided to the ADAW – and, ultimately, our clients – through the years. Thank you.

Options for dementia information and support

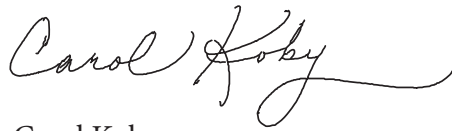
Anyone seeking continued dementia information and support may contact their county Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), reach out to the Alzheimer's Association (800-272-3900) or to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (866-232-8484), or dial 211 to connect with Government and nonprofit services.

If you have questions about the information provided above or any ADAW topic, please contact ADAW Executive Director Jeff Hamm at Jeff.Hamm@alz.wisc.org or 608-232-3400, Extension 112.

Sincerely,



Jeff Hamm
Executive Director



Carol Koby
Board President