

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Dementia Friendly Wyoming

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[GPS Support Center Ribbon Cutting](#)



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GPS Support Center is ready to help

The launching of the GPS Support Center (Gathering Positive Solutions) brings essential support to Sheridan for people living with dementia and their care partners by connecting them to vital services and resources. Trained care consultants, Heather Comstock and Vanessa Thiele, assess the situation, help create an action plan and connect people to appropriate services through ongoing coaching and consultation as care situations change. For those in the early stages of dementia and their care partners, counselors help to create a plan for the future based on values and preferences of the person living with dementia. In addition to the creation of a plan, SHARE for Dementia, a 5-session program, helps both parties understand dementia and how they will manage the upcoming changes.

Dementia Friendly educational sessions held throughout the community

Seven trained volunteer Champions provide one-hour Dementia Friendly educational sessions that help our neighbors and community organizations better understand dementia, how to communicate effectively and know the resources available. This training, combined with a signed commitment to take additional steps, allows an organization to become Dementia Friendly. Currently, 23 organizations and over 210 individuals have completed the training. The next phase will be helping faith communities to become more Dementia Friendly. Interested in becoming Dementia Friendly or becoming a volunteer Champion/educator? For more information call 461-7134 or going to the website www.dfwsheridan.org.

Teepa Snow's Positive Approach® Workshops are reaching care partners

Heather Comstock, Dementia Care Educator, has provided a series of three workshops for 29 community care partners who received 124 hours of combined training in September and October. The three workshops include: Normal Aging/Not Normal Aging, Positive Physical Approach™ and Hand-under Hand® and Teepa's GEMS® and Using Skills that Make a Difference. In addition, Heather Comstock provides help to community care partners with one-on-one coaching sessions to help build skills, consulting to work on specific challenges, providing the right resources at the right time and helping care partners provide meaningful engagement activities for those living with dementia. Sign up now for her February workshop series on our website www.dfwsheridan.org.

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Training for Health Care Professionals

Thanks to Dr. Kris Schamber and his team members, Dr. Tamarra Crawford, VA, Geropsychologist and Dr. Geoff Sherman, Neuropsychologist, for training health care providers. Dr. Terry Barclay and Michelle Barclay from Minnesota kicked off the training in June for health care providers (physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners) and care coordinators (nurses, social workers, case managers). Between the Barclays and the Sheridan team over 80 health care providers and care coordinators have completed the training that covers best practices across the care continuum to support those living with dementia. Sheridan Memorial Hospital will begin providing training for care coordinators throughout the hospital in 2018. The hospital Marketing staff is putting together essential information about dementia and where families can receive ongoing support that will be distributed in medical offices throughout Sheridan.

How can you help? Call us to volunteer

Dementia Champion— teach organizations to be Dementia Friendly. Champions attend a train the trainer session and network with community organizations to set up and present 60-minute trainings to organizations in all sectors of the community.

Friendly Connectors- support people environmentally or socially isolated who are at risk of dementia. They may be customers, patrons, clients or neighbors. Friendly Connectors attend a training to learn changes and signs that may indicate a person needs additional services and how to be aware of neglect or abuse. When necessary Friendly Connectors make referrals to the GPS Support Center, so people living with dementia can receive services and support.

Friendly Visitors— provide companionship & support to persons living with dementia. After attending a training for empathetic communication and positive interaction, Friendly Visitors will be paired with a friend to visit weekly and provide companionship, connection to social engagement, transportation, and support.

Upcoming Events—all at DFW offices, 1 S. Scott, Suite 2

Dementia Friendly Sessions—*Become a Dementia Friend—all are welcome!*

Tuesdays

January 9th and 23rd from 5:30-6:30 PM

Wednesdays

January 3rd and 17th from 8:00-9:00 AM

Dementia Volunteer Champion Train the Trainer Session—

Tuesday, January 16th from 3:00 to 4:30 pm

Friendly Visitors Training—

Wednesday, January 24th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Teepa Snow's Positive Approach[®] to Care Workshops -

- *Normal Aging/Not Normal Aging* – Thursday, February 1st from 9:30 AM to Noon
- *Positive Physical ApproachTM and Hand-under Hand[®]* - Tuesday, February 6th, 9:30 AM to Noon
- *Teepa's GEMS[®] and Using Skills that Make a Difference* – Wednesday, February 14th from 9:00 AM to Noon