

Department of  
**ELDER AFFAIRS**  
STATE OF FLORIDA



# NEWSLTR

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

## Mobility for Life

The Florida Department of Transportation has developed a *Mobility for Life Guide* to help older Floridians meet their personal mobility needs. Read more on Page 5.

## PICTURED BELOW

Frank Nuhfer, a World War II veteran, celebrates his 100th birthday with his family. Learn more about Mr. Nuhfer's incredible journey on Page 2.



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## CELEBRATING A WORLD WAR II VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY

By Karen Lopez  
Director  
South Florida Easterseals  
In-Home Services

On August 1st, Easterseals, a non-profit health care organization, celebrated the very special 100th birthday of Mr. Frank Nuhfer. Born in Cuba and a resident of Miami since the early 1940's, Frank comes

from an honorable and patriotic family.

His father, George Nuhfer, was a Master Sergeant in the Spanish American War and fought alongside great patriots such as President Theodore Roosevelt. Frank Nuhfer served in World War II at Pearl Harbor.

His son, John, served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Nuhfer is a strong and resilient man who loves his country and family. On his birthday, Frank was able to share his time with his sons and three granddaughters, along with Eddy Leal, Counsel to the Mayor of Miami, Francis

Suarez, who shared a proclamation that celebrates Nuhfer's achievements (pictured below).

Mr. Nuhfer has been enrolled in the AmeriCorps respite program for 6 years. On the day of his celebration all AmeriCorps members who have served him came to his birthday.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**December 6-15**  
The 2019 Florida Senior Games, presented by Humana, will be held in Ft. Lauderdale. For more information on the event click [here](#)

**December 12-13**  
The Florida Civic Advance Summit will be held in Seminole, Florida. For more information on the event click [here](#)

**December 16-17**  
The Florida Department of Elder Affairs will meet to develop recommendations for the State Plan on Aging. For more information on the event click [here](#)



# THREE WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR A MISSING PERSON SITUATION

By Scent Evidence K9

If someone close to you lives with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, preparing your family for a missing person scenario could increase their location success from 6% to 80%.

Due to curiosity, fear, or disorientation, these individuals sometimes wander from our sight, unable to find their way back.

The possibility is frightening — but that's why preparation is essential.

Follow these tips to turn your family into an effective missing person response team.

## 1. CREATE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Gather everything you'd need in an emergency scenario into a box and keep it somewhere secure. Yours may include:

- a Missing Person checklist with instructions to search for 15 minutes, call 911, and then start using additional resources;
- phone numbers for important Alzheimer's care resources,

including the Alzheimer's Association, and trusted neighbors;

- locations to which they've wandered in the past or upon which they fixate, including past workplaces, religious buildings, or a favorite restaurant; and
- a recent photo and up-to-date medical information.

When you feel your children are ready, introduce them to the emergency kit.

## 2. DESIGNATE ROLES

No one should waste time wondering what to do during a crisis. Make a list of roles and assign a chain of command — you can include this information in your action checklist. If you are out of the house and your children tell you that your mother has gone missing, they'll need to organize into leading and supporting roles to execute an effective response.

For example, you could designate your eldest to call the police, neighbors, and help resources while giving commands to their younger

siblings, while the youngest can gather materials the police will need.

## 3. KEEP A SCENT PRESERVATION KIT

Bloodhounds are law enforcement's strongest tool in a missing person scenario. When they lock onto a properly-preserved scent, they can track it for miles, even days after the trail was laid.

Unlike a GPS, one's scent can't be removed, run out of batteries, or lose service. Scent preservation kits have helped law enforcement locate a missing person in as little as 15 minutes — add one to your emergency kit and know that your loved one is never far away. For more information on Scent Preservation Kits, visit this link: [scentevidencek9.com/scent-kits-2](https://scentevidencek9.com/scent-kits-2)

Lt. Robert Siemer of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office put it best:

"Law enforcement agrees with the effectiveness of this new technology. Scent Preservation Kits save lives and save money."

# FIGHTING PARKINSON'S: SWEAT THERAPY BOXING

By Sweat Therapy Fitness

Sweat Therapy Fitness, located in Tallahassee, is an official Rock Steady Boxing Affiliate certified in the "Rock Steady Method," designed to improve quality of life through non-contact boxing based fitness classes. Research shows that rigorous exercise may slow the progression of Parkinson's symptoms and improve the ability to perform activities of daily living.

Rock Steady Boxing classes emphasize gross motor movement, balance, core strength and rhythm to favorably impact range of motion, flexibility, posture, gait and mood. While many organizations focus on finding a cure, Rock Steady Boxing helps people with Parkinson's Disease fight their biggest opponents: deterioration of motor skills, balance, speech and sensory function. For more information or to sign up for a Rock Steady Boxing class in your area, please click [here](#).



Rock Steady Boxers getting ready for class.

# PROFILES OF OLDER FLORIDIANS

By Jeffrey Swanson-Carranza, DOEA Bureau of Planning & Evaluation

The Bureau of Planning and Evaluation is proud to announce that this year the DOEA Profile of Older Floridians (Profiles) has received an update in its presentation and use to the public.

Features include a complete change to how the document is organized, more graphics, and new information on topics such as hurricane preparedness – all to add a personal touch and tell a story about Florida's older adults.

This information is divided into different sections organized around key themes: demographics, finances, livability, health/medical resources, and disaster preparedness.

Profiles are available at the county, Planning and Service Area (PSA), and state level and can help organizations improve the lives of the older adult population of Florida.

The profiles are divided into six sections. The first section is the Elder Needs Index (ENI), which helps to indicate older adults' overall level of risk for needing social services within a geographic area.

The ENI is a composite measure presented in map form that includes the following:

- The percentage of the 60 and older population that is age 85 and older;
- the percentage of the 55 and older population that are members of racial or ethnic minority groups;
- the percentage of the 65 and older population with one or more disabilities; and
- the percentage of the 55 and older population living below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Higher ENI values, represented by darker colors on the map, indicate older adults' overall level of risk for a need for social services within a geographic area. The demographic profile provides a breakdown of the area's population for those age 60 and older, such as: racial/ethnic composition, educational attainment, and English proficiency. It also examines specific traits of older Floridians, such as the number of veterans, voters, and drivers.

The third section is a financial profile to examine financial conditions, such as poverty rates and the cost of living for older Floridians.

The fourth section is the livability profile. This section provides information on the access older adults have to resources



in their neighborhoods that can help keep them connected with their social networks and the broader community.

The fifth section provides information on the health and medical resources of Florida elders, with a focus on the variety and availability of different types of facilities, medical professionals, and treatment services in a community.

Finally, the sixth section is on disaster preparedness, which outlines the number of people in evacuation zones, availability of shelter resources, and disaster-specific issues, such as the number of older adults who are at particular risk during a power outage.

To assist with the interpretation of the profiles, each section now provides a summary of the important information on the topic.

A User's Guide has also been developed to showcase best practices and explain certain concepts in more detail.

We have also increased accessibility to the profiles for individuals with disabilities and improved its readability for a wider audience.

To view the profiles, please [click here](#)



## Elder Update

Elder Update is a bi-monthly news publication produced by the Department of Elder Affairs. It is distributed for free to more than 50,000 Floridians including seniors, caregivers, policymakers, and elder-care service providers. Visit [elderaffairs.org](#) to sign up.

## SAFE MOBILITY FOR LIFE TOOLKIT: MAKING FLORIDA MORE ACCESSIBLE AND SAFER

*By the Florida Department of Transportation*

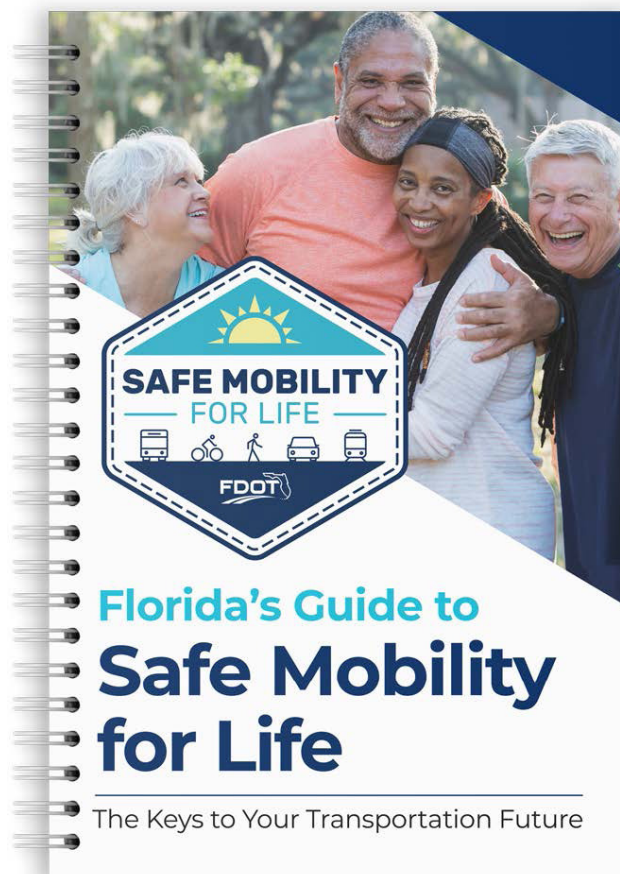
The Florida Department of Transportation's Safe Mobility for Life Coalition has released an updated guide to help older adults in Florida meet their personal mobility needs and remain safe, independent, and active in their communities.

The guide helps older adults in Florida learn the keys to achieve Safe Mobility for Life which are: understand, be proactive, and plan.

Florida's Guide to Safe Mobility for Life is an updated version of Florida's Guide to Aging Drivers, which was released

in 2012. The newly revised and expanded guide has necessary information all Floridians need to know as they age, as well as tips on how to drive safely longer and how to remain active and independent after transitioning from driving. The guide has information about community and statewide transportation resources, safety tips, and rules for sharing the road to help drivers, walkers, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorcyclists be proactive about their mobility.

The guide also includes self-assessments and worksheets to help learn how to plan for life beyond the driver's seat.



To order *Florida's Guide to Safe Mobility for Life*, please visit [fdot.tips/orderform](https://fdot.tips/orderform).

## CREATING CITIES FOR ALL

*By 8 80 Cities*

Frustrated by the lack of progress happening in cities both locally and globally, 8 80 Cities founder Gil (Guillermo) Penalosa, set out to light a fire under decision-makers and community leaders reticent to change. In his words, he wanted to help cities "move from talking to doing."

Having led urban transformation projects in Bogotá

in the late 1990s, he knew the tremendous power of investing in sustainable mobility, parks, and public spaces.

After moving to the Greater Toronto area with his family, Gil incorporated the not-for-profit organization "Walk and Bike for Life" with the goal of promoting walking, bicycling, parks, and public spaces as a means to building healthier, happier, and more equitable communities.

The organization quickly grew as municipalities and partners around the world began seeking out leadership and expertise in creating cities for all.

Fast forward 10 years, and 8 80 Cities has:

- Worked with over 350 communities across 6 continents;
- Become experts in unconventional citizen engagement;

- Helped lead an open streets movement around the world; and
- Partnered with global leaders in public health, transportation, parks and recreation, urban design, and more.

To learn more about 8 80 Cities please visit : [880cities.org](https://880cities.org)



# THE DWELLINGS: HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

*By Audra Peoples, Director of Communications for The Dwellings*

With not enough solutions in place to meet the needs of our most vulnerable population, a Tallahassee philanthropist, Rick Kearney, has envisioned and funded the first tiny home community in the U.S. to offer a sustainable housing solution for individuals who are financially, socially, or institutionally disadvantaged.

Through the non-profit Connecting Everyone with Second Chances (CESC), The Dwellings is a new, low-barrier tiny house community providing a comprehensive approach to ensuring that disadvantaged people are not condemned to dangerous and substandard housing, which is often their only option.

Helping people with a holistic approach, The Dwellings provides participants with onsite case management, job placement, and even medical and dental care to assist participants in achieving independence and stability.

The Dwellings has partnerships with approximately 40 social service agencies in Tallahassee and case managers provide referrals and recommendations for participants on a variety

of services, such as transportation, mental health, substance abuse and crisis intervention.

Addressing the critical need for low-cost, low-barrier housing, neither The Dwellings, nor any of CESC's housing offerings, does not require a credit check, as residents may have poor credit or an eviction history which can bar someone from traditional housing, especially clean, safe housing. According to John Schmidt, The Dwellings' Director, "The Dwellings can help people such as veterans and senior citizens with limited incomes, single parents, individuals recovering from health issues and even part-time college students without the savings to put down first and last month's rent. Many times, these good folks get stuck in high crime areas because it's their only option."

Cottage like homes feature the highest-quality construction integrated with technology such as smart meters to monitor utility consumption, smart HD TVs, solar-power, smart lighting, electric door locks, fans, and air conditioning units; even their own TV network with 17 over-the-air channels via fiber optic internet. Each home is equipped with an Amazon Echo which will allow partici-



*One of the homes at The Dwellings.*

pants to ask "Alexa" to set room temperature, lock the door, re-order medication, call for transportation, get immediate help and more.

Amenities at The Dwellings include a greenhouse where participants are encouraged to help grow vegetables, an arts center with a 12 screen TV wall, a complete woodshop, and even a high-tech, cashless laundry facility. The dining hall, resembling a mountain ski lodge, serves 2-3 meals/day (included in residents' monthly fee), and there is a general store, outdoor stone fire-pit, and walking trails.

Daily Community Center programs include financial planning, wellness, counseling and general community building through organized recreation.

This innovative approach provides participants with

the tools to grow and the opportunity to become self-sustaining, while being part of a healthy society of friends and neighbors.

"We want to ensure program participants continue to grow and maintain success and provide access to community services such as laundry facilities, indoor/outdoor gathering spaces, healthy dining options and more," said Monique Ellsworth, CEO of CESC. "We look to provide more than 130 housing units with a low carbon footprint, high-tech benefits and access to resources all in one location."

With 89 homes finished and occupied, The Dwellings is projected to add 41 more homes, for a total of 130 by the end of 2019.

## FLORIDA'S AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

### FLORIDA:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 21.3M

### ALACHUA COUNTY:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 266,944

### CAPE CANAVERAL:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 10,413

### CITRUS COUNTY:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 145,647

### CORAL GABLES:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 50,815

### CORAL SPRINGS:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 133,037

### CLEARWATER:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 155,513

### CUTLER BAY:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 44,321  
[Action Plan](#)

### DUNEDIN:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 35,321

### FORT LAUDERDALE:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 176,013

### HALLANDALE BEACH:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 38,270

### HOLLYWOOD:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 140,768

### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 154,383

### LAKELAND:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 102,507

### LONGWOOD:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 13,657

### MARION COUNTY:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 354,353

### MIAMI:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 432,622

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 2,600,861

### MIAMI LAKES:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 31,087

### MIAMI SHORES:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 10,649

### NEW PORT RICHEY:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 14,911

### OCALA:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 59,110

### ORLANDO:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 280,257

### PALMETTO BAY:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 24,000

### PEMBROKE PINES:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 154,750

### PINECREST:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 19,088

### PINELLAS COUNTY:

Joined: 2017 | Population: 921,000

### POMPANO BEACH:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 109,393

### SARASOTA COUNTY:

Joined: 2015 | Population: 390,429  
[Survey | Action Plan](#)

### SATELLITE BEACH:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 10,418

### ST. PETERSBURG:

Joined: 2016 | Population: 53,700  
[Survey](#)

### TALLAHASSEE:

Joined: 2015 | Population: 188,107  
[Survey](#)

### WALTON COUNTY:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 68,376

### WILTON MANORS:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 12,682

### WINTER HAVEN:

Joined: 2015 | Population: 35,531

## WELCOME TO THE NETWORK

**Coral Springs** and **Cape Canaveral** have both joined the Age-Friendly Network! With their admittance, Florida now has **34 communities** dedicated to ensuring all residents of the Sunshine State may thrive at any age or ability. Comprised of cities, towns, and counties, Age-Friendly communities are being formed throughout the country and across the globe. If you are interested in your community joining, please visit

AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities Page:  
[aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2014/sample-letters.html](http://aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2014/sample-letters.html)



**World Health Organization**



*Governor Ron DeSantis and Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom display the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Certificate for the State of Florida.*

## MY AMERICORP STORY

By Scarlett Samantha Blandino

WOW! I am shocked of how time has flown. I can't believe it has been six months since I first joined AmeriCorps. I can truly say that AmeriCorps has been a blessing from the start. I have been surrounded by very friendly, passionate, happy and talented people. I have felt the strong connection with some of the members and I've had the wonderful opportunity to create a very comfortable bond with others as we have worked together as a team during certain events. The trainings have been excellent, very educational. The program coordinator, Karen Lopez, is exceptional. All I can say is "We are a family!" I have gained the knowledge and complete understanding of my client whom has allowed me to feel as part as her family. My client's children are

always reaching out to me as if I have been around them forever. This has truly opened my eyes and my heart to give more and more of me to an amazing organization such as AmeriCorps. I feel like I have no limits, the sense of having them in my life has become quite memorizing to me. I am extremely thrilled for the skills that I will continue to gain in this path, as well as for the challenges that I will foresee and help me grow.

If you are interested in Americorps, please visit Volunteer Florida's website by clicking [here](#).

*Pictured Right: Scarlett Blandino serving her community through Americorps.*



## GOVERNOR DESANTIS ISSUES PROCLAMATION FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

Governor Ron DeSantis proclaimed November as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. This month, we recognize the opportunity to raise awareness, continue research and recognize those affected by Alzheimer's Disease, including their families, friends, caregivers, and communities.

To view a full-size image of Governor Desantis' proclamation, click [here](#).



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

### ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Florida's 5.5 million elders deserve to lead long, healthy and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior; and

WHEREAS, more than 5.8 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, including an estimated 560,000 Floridians; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's affects the families, friends, caretakers, and communities of those living with this disease; and

WHEREAS, with more than 1 million caregivers in Florida, there are approximately 1.29 billion hours of unpaid care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, valued at 16.4 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Florida has made combatting dementia a priority to improve the lives of all affected Floridians, including securing more than \$3 million in increased funding for the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative this year and recommending another \$5.7 million increase for 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, as the only state to do so in the nation, Florida's Department of Health will be adding Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) as its own Priority Area in our State Health Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health have been directed to apply to be a Center of Excellence in accordance with the federal BOLD act to position Florida to receive federal grants for the treatment and prevention of dementia; and

WHEREAS, while there is currently no cure for Alzheimer's, help is available in the form of education, support and services to those affected and their families, caregivers and communities; and

WHEREAS, in a statewide effort to ensure Florida is livable for all, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs has partnered with the state's 11 Area Agencies on Aging and 17 Memory Disorder Clinics to establish the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative Task Forces to support those affected by dementia; and

WHEREAS, institutions that house Memory Disorder Clinics have been challenged to provide matching funding to the clinics to serve more individuals through evaluation and diagnostic testing for dementia; and

WHEREAS, the month of November is an opportunity to raise awareness, continue research and recognize those affected by Alzheimer's disease, including their families, friends, caregivers and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing November 2019 as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month in Florida.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, in the year two thousand nineteen.

*R. DeSantis*  
Governor

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# EFFORTS TO HELP THOSE SUFFERING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

By Rebecca Fernandez  
Reporter for WWSB

Officials of Sarasota County want to remind the public that there is help from local resources throughout the Suncoast that offer assistance services and outreach programs.

Plus, there's an initiative across the state to take the help for those affected even one step further.

Those suffering with dementia, as well as their caregivers, are already under a ton of stress. They don't need the added factor of people not understanding what they're going through, so that's why the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative was created.

There were three reported murder-suicides over the course of

four days on the Suncoast, including one where a 94-year-old man killed his 80-year-old wife, who suffered from dementia, and then attempted to take his own life but the gun malfunctioned.

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs created DCCI to help make communities across the state dementia-friendly. Sarasota County was the second county to join this effort, and has a task force that works hands-on with businesses.

They focus on helping them become more accommodating to dementia-related issues and earn a "caring community" designation from the state.

"They want to be able to go somewhere and feel comfortable, whether

it be to a restaurant or to a pharmacy," the Task Force Director for Sarasota County, Danielle Valery, explained to us, "

Just people to notice the warning signs, and if somebody might be alone in the community and they can notice the changes, or for a caregiver to be able to have a social life and not feel embarrassed or worried about how their family member might be treated because they might repeat themselves or have other problems that affect the way they communicate." Any business can sign up to be certified under the DCCI Initiative. The program is tailored to fit the needs of each company. To learn more, click here: [elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/dcci.php](http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/dcci.php)

## DCCI IN SARASOTA COUNTY

By Sue Fireston and Danielle Valery,  
Chairs of the Sarasota  
DCCI Taskforce

The Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) is a statewide effort for communities to become more dementia-friendly through awareness and education. DCCI welcomes and supports those diagnosed with Alzheimer's and related dementias, their families, and caregivers.

With approximately 520,000 individuals currently living with Alzheimer's disease, Florida has the second-highest incidence of Alzheimer's in the nation. This number does not include individuals living with another form of dementia or those who currently provide care for a loved one with dementia. Dementia does not only affect the person diagnosed; it also impacts family and loved ones.

In collaboration with Florida's Area Agencies on Aging and Memory Disorder Clinics, Sarasota is fortunate to have a DCCI Task Force in our community. The Sarasota DCCI Task Force has been actively working for the past year to create educational materials and recruit volunteers from within the aging network to be trained to teach the curriculum.

Volunteers are ready to get started with training local restaurants, banks, libraries or any other business interested in educating staff on how to best serve customers who are living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

The DCCI Initiative is another positive step in creating an Age-Friendly Community #ForAllAges that empowers all people to live purposeful, active lives that promote inclusion and respect.

For more information on becoming a dementia caring business, please contact DCCI@elderaffairs.org or Danielle Valery at the Memory Disorder Clinic 941-917-7930. Somebody might be alone in the community and they can notice the changes, or for a caregiver to be able to have a social life and not feel embarrassed or worried about how their family member might be treated because they might repeat themselves or have other problems that effect the way they communicate."

Any business can sign up to be certified under the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative. The program is tailored to fit the needs of each company.

# DEMENTIA CARE AND CURE INITIATIVE



The Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) currently has 14 Dementia-Caring communities throughout Florida, where Task Forces lead the charge to implement dementia-sensitive solutions for local residents.

## NORTHWEST FLORIDA

The Northwest Florida DCCI Task Force welcomed a new member from the City of Gulf Breeze to their Task Force, along with a new Program Manager for the area with the Alzheimer's Association. This Task Force has continued to educate participants and staff at congregate meal sites throughout the Northwest Florida region, and has several trainings on the books for the coming months.

## BIG BEND

This Task Force will be working in coordination with the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee (ADAC) to host a listening session for service providers in the aging network in the Leon County area to identify gaps in services and the perceived community needs as it relates to services and supports for people living with ADRD and their care providers. This open forum will take place in the middle of December, and, in the meantime, Task Force members will survey care partners in the area to identify their perceived deficits in services and supports as it relates to ADRD.

## JACKSONVILLE

The Jacksonville DCCI/DFA Task Force hosted a half-day Life-Planning Community Event in conjunction with Lasting Legacies™ and the Northside Church of Christ this past September. Approximately 60 attendees visited with local vendors and learned about dementia and caregiving resources, elder care legal matters, and estate planning. There was also a panel discussion with professionals from the areas of life insurance, banking, adult day care, medical hospice, and senior social services. Additionally, this Task Force has adopted a mission statement particular to the work they're doing:

DCCI is a group of community partners working to create a dementia-friendly Jacksonville to increase the quality of life for those affected by dementia.

## GREATER GAINESVILLE

The Greater Gainesville DCCI Task Force is looking to grow the number of DCCI dementia sensitivity training facilitators amongst themselves and will be holding a train-the-trainer session soon. They are also looking to host a community Dementia Day event in the Spring of 2020, so stay tuned for more details!

## BREVARD

The Brevard County DCCI Task Force provided Dementia Live®, a transformative first-hand dementia experience which heightens understanding, deepens empathy, and elevates care, as part of their education and outreach efforts at the Viera VA Clinic. They facilitated this experience for two days at the clinic and a total of 104 VA employees participated. They received great feedback from the participants, as they expressed how this provided significant insight and opened their eyes to the world of dementia. Task Force members were also able to share information about local resources with VA staff who are caregivers for

loved ones with dementia and assist them with further support. Pictured below are Brevard DCCI Task Force members who are trainers for Dementia Live®.

## ORLANDO

Orange County Task Force members are encouraged to participate in an interactive community discussion hosted by the ADAC and Alzheimer's Association that will be held in Longwood on December 5th featuring Michelle Branham of the Alzheimer's Association, Dr. Rosemary Laird of Advent Health, DOEA Secretary Richard Prudom, and Representative Scott Plakon. This forum will serve as an opportunity for citizens to voice concerns and let policy makers know what the top priorities for ADRD are in the area.

This Task Force is putting the finishing touches on their dementia sensitivity training and will start offering it to various sectors of the community in the beginning of 2020.

## TAMPA

This Task Force is developing a plan for bringing the DCCI dementia sensitivity training to various sectors of the community in the Hillsborough County area. This training includes a basic overview of Alzheimer's and dementia, common signs and symptoms, communication techniques, and information on local resources in the community that can assist those living with ADRD and their care partners.

## SARASOTA

The Sarasota DCCI Task Force has been in the news! Please see page 9 of the Newsletter to read an article that was published by local station ABC7 in Sarasota. There is also an





article featured on the Sarasota Age Friendly blog written by Task Force Chair Danielle Valery and member Sue Firestone.

### FORT MYERS

The Fort Myers DCCI Task Force worked seamlessly in collaboration with the Lee County Sheriff's Office, United Way, and Scent Evidence



K9 to host a Dementia Safety Event on October 24th. This event was free and open to the public, and participants who visited with the Task Force were able to learn about available community resources and learn about search and rescue efforts for people living with AD/DR who go missing in a joint presentation facilitated by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, United Way, and Scent Evidence K9. The Lee County Sheriff's Office and United Way have a program called "ReUnite," which provides peace of mind to caregivers of individuals who have a history of wandering. The Fort Myers DCCI decal and the state DCCI logo

have now been added to some of their marketing materials for this program (pictured left):

### MARTIN COUNTY

Martin County HUGS has been busy establishing new dementia friendly



entities through community trainings, including one for managers at the Publix Super Market at Cove Shopping Center in Stuart. Pictured above are the managers who took part in this training.

### PALM BEACH

Please join us in welcoming the Palm Beach County DCCI Task Force as the 13th member of Florida's Dementia-Caring Community network. This Task Force met for the first time on November 7th in West Palm Beach and is pictured below.



### PASCO & PINELLAS



Please join us in welcoming the Pasco-Pinellas DCCI Task Force as the 12th member of Florida's Dementia-Caring Community network (pictured above). This Task Force held their inaugural meeting on October 7th in Dunedin.

### BROWARD

Please join us in welcoming the Broward County DCCI Task Force as the 14th member of Florida's Dementia-Caring Community network. This Task Force held their inaugural meeting on October 22nd in Sunrise.

### MIAMI

The Miami DCCI Task Force is planning to work collaboratively with the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative moving forward. Stay tuned for what comes out of this partnership!

For more information about the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative, please email [DCCI@elderaffairs.org](mailto:DCCI@elderaffairs.org).