

Summer-Newsletter

Issue 2



MISSION Provide compassionate care, caregiver respite, education and spiritual support in a day program setting for those living with Alzheimers and other related dementias.

VISION Partnering in the Journey of Alzheimers and other related dementias.

minds matter
magnolia memory care inc.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every day our team continues to celebrate “Moments of Hope” to keep our purpose in the forefront. Today, I would like to share Veronica’s story; and Walt’s journey as an exemplary caregiver. I met Veronica over two years ago and right away fell in love with her dazzling eyes, gracious smile, and incredible wit. Walt enrolled her in Minds Matter to encourage socialization and cognitive stimulation as she was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment. He shared that he felt her dementia was somehow related to the many surgeries she had years before. Walt, like most caregivers, found himself in a place he never imagined—a place most knew nothing about. They do the best they can to meander their way through a quandary of complicated lifestyle changes. The reality of a person living with dementia can be so bizarre that the caregiver sometimes thinks they are the one with cognitive impairment. Below is a Q&A session I had with Walt:

Q Where did you and Veronica meet?

A Appalachian Mountain Hiking Club in the Hudson Valley.

Q What did you both do for a living?

A We were born in NYC, Veronica worked in Human Resources, and I worked as a CPA in a successful firm and retired early.

Q When and where were you married?

A In 1983 at The Church of the Epiphany in Manhattan.

Q What did you enjoy most about being married to her?

A We moved to New Hampshire in 1989. We had many years of enjoying hiking, skiing, and bicycling. Being married to Veronica brought me such joy and happiness that the years flew by.

Q Where was the favorite place you traveled to?

A Bhutan a Himalaya Community was an amazing trip. A striking place of magic and myth, the lush Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan brims with a wealth of natural beauty, vibrant culture, and awe-inspiring spiritual and historical attractions. High in the Himalayan Mountains, it has earned the nickname the Last Shangri-La.



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WELCOME MINDS MATTER DEMENTIA CARE NAVIGATOR

Last month Sheresa Hagwood joined our team as our Dementia Care Navigator. This position was created after Grace Jackowski completed her internship and took another position closer to her home in Huntersville. Over the past year, we realized the need for this vital position to fill the gap to connect resources to caregivers. Researchers, neurologists, and care providers recognize the value this service will bring to caregivers in a critical time of stress.

Dementia Care Navigation is a program that provides tailored, strengths-based support to persons living with dementia and their care partners across the illness continuum and settings to mitigate the impact of dementia through collaborative problem-solving and coaching.

Sheresa is well qualified for this role. She has garnered extensive experience in the field of Social Work spanning more than two decades, with her most recent position being a SC State Certified Medicare Counselor. Throughout her professional journey, she held pivotal roles such as Executive Director of Adult Day Care and Director of Health Care. She also worked for the SC State Department of Health Care Quality Division as an investigator conducting in-depth abuse investigations in Nursing Home and Assisted Living facilities. We are grateful to have Sheresa on the Team and have enjoyed watching her get to know the caregivers, develop trust, connect them to resources, and facilitate support groups. Please reach out to her if you have any questions at email shagwood@magnoliamemorycare.org. 🌸



Sheresa Hagwood is Minds Matter’s new Dementia Care Navigator.



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Q What is the hardest part about being a caregiver?

A To accept what was happening and know that Veronica's diagnosis is incurable—my hope is it will not get worse. I am 85 years old and I see the future is to move her into a Memory Care Facility. I want her to have the best care if something happens to me.

Q What has made the biggest impact on your caregiving journey?

A I am very grateful for Minds Matter in helping us both "Journey to Unimaginable Lands."** Minds Matter has helped us both and I am so thankful. 🌸

APPRECIATING OUR AMAZING

Volunteers

By Heather Schwarzkopf

The week of April 21 was Volunteer Appreciation Week and we loved being able to give each of our volunteers a t-shirt with the Minds Matter logo as a small token of our appreciation along with a beautiful card that our participants made and signed. These volunteers truly become part of our Minds Matter family. They love the participants just as much as we do. We couldn't ask for more from our AMAZING 20+ volunteers. They have worked over 240 hours this quarter, making a huge impact in the lives of our participants. 🌸

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Heather Schwarzkopf at hschwarzkopf@magnoliamemorycare.org



Clockwise L to R: Susan Bill, Connie Delrio, Gardening on the Cay ladies, Ann Bethel, Carol Cook, Riley Schroeder, Jim Bethel, El Kjeldsen, Cheryl Blevins, Debbie Waters and Lillie Taylor.

DEMENTIA CARE IN THE NEWS

Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model

On July 31, 2023, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new voluntary nationwide model—the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model—a model test that aims to support people living with dementia and their unpaid caregivers. CMS accepted letters of interest for the GUIDE Model through September 15, 2023. The GUIDE Request for Applications (RFA) for the model was released Fall 2023. The model will launch on July 1, 2024, and run for eight years. For more information please check this site: <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/guide>

We have been asked to partner with Memory and Movement as a provider of respite services for Minds Matter. Please contact me for more information, susanbill@magnoliamemorycare.org. 🌸

Upcoming Events

• **Monday, September 16**
—Golf 4ACause at Tega Cay Golf Course.



Scan the QR Code for information and tickets for the Event.

magnoliamemorycare.networkforgood.com/projects/216267-minds-matter-2024

**Kiper, Dasha, (2023). *Travelers to Unimaginable Lands: Stories of Dementia, the Caregiver, and the Human Brain*. Random House Trade.

SOUTHERN DISH CHEF V

We are partnering with local Chef V to provide our participants with delicious Brain Healthy Meals. 🌸



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