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Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the past year, we are so very grateful for your continued support through your individual and corporate giving, advocacy, volunteer hours, and sharing your personal stories. This year we successfully moved two of our six Walk to End Alzheimer’s to new locations and brought out almost 10,000 walkers to support those affected by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Our advocacy efforts led to the signing of the 21st Century Cures Act and a proposal of a new service by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that would allow those newly diagnosed with Alzheimer’s to receive comprehensive care planning.

Each year our devoted staff assists tens of thousands of families in Connecticut. This newsletter will give you a glimpse into the impact that we are having thanks to your generous support. We are excited to continue to be the leader of dementia education in the state as we approach our 20th Dementia Education Conference this April 6, uniting experts worldwide to present the latest information on dementia care practices.

We are also excited to share our upcoming events as Celebrating Hope, our premier event in Greenwich celebrates a milestone year with the fifth annual event to take place Friday, May 5, 2017 at L’escale at the Delamar Hotel in Greenwich. Join us on June 10th as we observe Alzheimer’s Brain Awareness Month with the Brain Ball at the CT Science Center in Hartford. We will wrap up the month with the Longest Day activities on June 21st.

Our progress and ability to advance our mission are made possible with your support and we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your commitment to our vision of a World Without Alzheimer’s.

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MORE THAN 5 MILLION AMERICANS ARE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER’S
OUR TEAM

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More than 5 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer’s disease and those in the early stage of Alzheimer’s play an active role in the fight against the disease. The Alzheimer’s Association recognizes the importance of this valuable perspective and is pleased to welcome 10 new members, including Sherman resident Geri Taylor to the 2016-2017 Alzheimer’s Association National Early-Stage Advisory Group.

The Early-Stage Advisory Group members help raise awareness of Alzheimer’s and reduce stigma associated with the disease by sharing their personal stories and experience living with dementia. They also advocate for increased research funding and provide input to the Association about programs and materials designed to meet the growing needs of early-stage individuals.

GERI WAS CHOSEN FROM 56 APPLICANTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO BE A PART OF THE EARLY-STAGE ADVISORY GROUP. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in 2012 at age 69. During Geri’s 45 years of executive leadership in healthcare, she developed multiple long-term care programs in nursing homes and community settings for nonprofit facilities in New York City. These included senior housing, hospice, adult day care and a unique citywide program serving individuals requiring skilled nursing care in their own homes. As Executive Vice President, she was responsible for operations and new program development. She has been responsible for new legislation and regulations to permit the implementation of innovative healthcare programs. Several years prior to the diagnosis, Geri experienced increasing confusion, difficulty navigating familiar routes and changes in her memory and attention. She was flustered by operating her bedroom blinds and became disoriented on the subway. Still employed at the time, Geri began to reassign some of her responsibilities. Her spouse, Jim a retired financial analyst for IBM, did not become aware of the severity of Geri’s symptoms until she experienced a brief period of facial agnosia where she did not recognize her own reflection. This startling event encouraged the couple to schedule an appointment with their physician.

After an initial assessment with a neurologist, which included a cognitive evaluation and MRI, Geri was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Given her extensive family history of Alzheimer’s disease, including both parents, Geri began to pursue clinical trials to receive access to a more thorough diagnostic evaluation. After enrolling in the Biogen aducanumab trial (BIIIIB037), Geri received a PET scan and genetic testing which confirmed she carries two copies of the APOE-4 gene. Her diagnosis was confirmed as Alzheimer’s disease.

Geri and Jim waited six months before sharing the diagnosis with family and friends. They needed time to process the information and how the diagnosis would affect their
future. Despite the advice from her therapist to tell “no one” about the diagnosis, Geri and Jim made the decision to tell their children independently, sensitive to their personal reactions.

Geri contacted the Alzheimer’s Association after researching the disease online. She enrolled in an education program through the Connecticut chapter and began sharing her story at Association events in New York and Connecticut.

Since the diagnosis, Geri has made the decision to pursue activities that foster a sense of connection and engagement to live well with the disease. She took up her life-long interest in photography and spends more time doing activities that bring her joy. AFTER CONTACTING THE ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION CONNECTICUT CHAPTER, she and Jim began sharing their story living with the disease through public speeches. Geri and Jim have also been featured the New York Times called “Fraying at the Edges.”

As a participant in the Alzheimer’s Association 2016 National Early-Stage Advisory Group, Geri would like to encourage others living in the early stage to focus on strategies to help them live well with the disease and focus on strengths rather than declines. She writes, “I’m a different person today. I am much more present and in the moment, I laugh more spontaneously and feel the warmth of others more readily; I value people and beauty more deeply and viscerally. I am limited but at the same time, I am expanded by the opportunity of knowing that what I experience is to be cherished and that every moment is special.”

In addition to serving as national spokespersons for media and educational events, previous Early-Stage Advisors helped to secure the addition of younger-onset Alzheimer’s to the Social Security Administration’s Compassionate Allowance Initiative, giving those with the disease access to certain social security benefits. They also participated in grassroots advocacy efforts supporting the establishment of the first national plan to address the Alzheimer’s epidemic.

Furthermore, previous Early-Stage Advisors offered input on Alzheimer’s Association services such as “I Have Alzheimer’s Disease” (www.alz.org/i-have-alz), an online resource offering information and tools to help those with early-stage Alzheimer’s or another dementia, ALZConnected® (www.alzconnected.org), the first dedicated social networking community for anyone impacted by Alzheimer’s, and TrialMatch® (www.alz.org/trialmatch), a free, easy-to-use clinical studies matching service that connects individuals with Alzheimer’s, caregivers, healthy volunteers and physicians with current studies.

For more information on Alzheimer’s disease and early-stage services, visit the Alzheimer’s Association at www.alz.org.
In its final week of the 114th session, Congress passed the 21st Century Cures Act, legislation that will accelerate the discovery, development and delivery of new treatments and cures for many diseases. It also increases funding at the National Institutes of Health for innovative approaches to addressing complex diseases. And it streamlines the regulatory process to ensure that treatments can be available to patients as soon as possible. The 21st Century Cures Act also includes the Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer’s (EUREKA) Act which will help to advance research breakthroughs for Alzheimer’s disease, and encourage public-private partnerships.

The Alzheimer’s Association and our strategic partner the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM) have supported both of these key pieces of legislation since their introduction and we’re excited to announce that they were signed into law by the President. These important actions are just the latest in a series of recent public policy victories for our cause. Indeed, as we look back on the session, one thing is clear — this Congress brought remarkable advancements for our cause because of your relentless efforts.

Since the 114th Congress convened in January 2015, we have progressed on our goal to increase Alzheimer’s research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) — first, with the historic funding annual increase of $350 million for fiscal year 2016, the largest in history, signed into law in December 2015. And again, this summer when the House Appropriations Committee approved an additional $350 million increase for FY17 and the Senate Appropriations Committee approved $400 million. We are encouraged by the growing support for our cause and the return of our champions in Congress. Together with the work of you, our advocates, we will continue the pursuit of this additional FY17 funding when the new Administration and Congress begin their work in January.

The 114th Congress also saw the advancement of critical legislation to increase access to care planning and support services. The Alzheimer’s Association, AIM, and advocates like you led the way on the HOPE for Alzheimer’s Act to provide Medicare coverage for comprehensive care planning services for those living with Alzheimer’s disease and other cognitive impairments. Because of our efforts, congressional co-sponsorship numbers soared, and in November 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a decision to pay for cognitive and functional assessments and care planning. In 2017, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER’S WILL HAVE ACCESS TO CARE PLANNING WITH A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL COVERED BY MEDICARE.

We also saw support grow for the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA). PCHETA would ensure an adequate, well-trained palliative care workforce through workforce training, education and awareness and enhanced research. Thanks to the leadership and advocacy of the Association, during the 114th Congress PCHETA reached 234 bipartisan cosponsors in the House, and 20 cosponsors in the Senate. We will continue to work to ensure advance this legislation in the new year.

Additionally, there was increased support in Congress for Kevin and Avonte’s Law, which reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program to help reduce injury and death of Americans with Alzheimer’s and developmental disabilities. This program is a proven success, helping law enforcement quickly identify and reunite persons with Alzheimer’s with their families and caregivers. Our advocates have again been relentless in efforts to build support for this legislation, growing the number of co-sponsors in the House from 23 in late August to 93 today. While the 114th Congress departed before taking final action on the legislation, the support we have helped garner for the bill has us hopeful for its passage in the new Congress.

For all these tremendous developments there is much more work to be done. As we look ahead to the incoming Administration and the 115th Congress, we are already hard at work with the new and returning leadership to advance public policy solutions that will improve the lives of those living with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers. To learn about these efforts and how you can get involved visit alz.org/advocate. We also invite you to join us for the 2017 Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Forum in Washington D.C.
The Alzheimer’s Ambassador Program is designed to help the Alzheimer’s Association achieve its federal policy priorities by empowering volunteers to engage with their elected officials.

Alzheimer’s Ambassadors serve as the main point of in-district contact for a targeted member of Congress. They develop trusted relationships with their assigned congressional office through ongoing, personal contacts, drawing upon proven techniques and the support of Association National and Chapter staff.

The Alzheimer’s Association has Ambassadors for each of the seven legislators in Connecticut.

MEET SOME OF OUR AMBASSADORS

SENATOR BLUMENTHAL
JENNIFER ROSENBERG, AMBASSADOR
MAX ROSENBERG, JR AMBASSADOR

Thirteen year old Max and his mother Jennifer are advocates for the Alzheimer’s Association because they want to see change. Max’s grandmother (Jennifer’s mother), suffers from Alzheimer’s disease and they see up close and personal the devastation that this disease brings to everyone touched. Max is a leading fundraiser each year at the Fairfield County Walk to End Alzheimer’s with his team the Memory Makers. He has spoken at the Alzheimer’s Association’s lobby day at the state capitol and quickly befriended state legislators and Senator Blumenthal with his outgoing personality and passion.

CONGRESSWOMAN ROSA DELAURO
MIKE TOBIN, AMBASSADOR

Mike Tobin’s wife was diagnosed in 2004 and passed in 2008 at the age of 53. Mike retired from his job in 2009 to care for his two teenage sons. Several members of his wife’s bloodline inherited the presenilin-1 gene, predisposing them to early onset dementia. Mike has been informed that his two sons may have a 50% chance of the gene inheritance which is what drives him to do all he can for the Association. Mike has been an Ambassador to Rosa DeLauro since 2011 and has attended many of the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Forums in Washington DC. He has testified at the state level for funding of respite care, which he states benefited him with adult day services so he was able to work and provide for his family while he was his wife’s caregiver. You can often find him volunteering his time at the chapter office and at the Walk to End Alzheimer’s in New Haven each year.

CONGRESSMAN JIM HIMES
MARY KAY HARRITY, CO-AMBASSADOR
SCOTT RUSSELL, CO-AMBASSADOR

Scott Russell was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease in 2009 at what he calls “age 59 1/2.” He was a member of the Alzheimer’s Association National Board of Directors, serves as an Alzheimer’s Association Ambassador to Jim Himes and was chair of the 2014 Advocacy Forum, the first person with Alzheimer’s to hold that position. His wife Amy joins his advocacy efforts, attending the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy forum with him each year and advocating alongside Scott.

“You don’t have to be an activist to come to Hill Day,” Amy said. “The materials we have from the Alzheimer’s Association make it easy to demonstrate why it’s important to pass this legislation. And you’re going to the meetings with a team of other people who understand the cause and support you.”

Mary Kay Harrity joined Scott as a co-Ambassador to Jim Himes two years ago and attended the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Forum for the first-time this past April. As a first time attendee, marching Capitol Hill gave her a sense of purpose and unity. “There’s a collective feeling of urgency here today,” she said. “There’s strength in knowing we’re all pursuing the same goal.” Mary Kay volunteers her time advocating at the state level as well and volunteering for other association events.
The Walk to End Alzheimer’s® is the nation’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Held annually in communities throughout Connecticut, the Walk to End Alzheimer’s unites entire communities in the fight to end Alzheimer’s disease. Close to 10,000 walkers and almost 900 teams raised over $1.4 million at our six walks this fall. We are grateful to the individuals, teams, corporations, sponsors and volunteers who make this event possible each year.
SEE YOU IN THE FALL

JOIN US IN 2017
START OR JOIN A TEAM
VISIT ALZ.ORG/WALK

9/10
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S® - DANBURY
WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

9/16
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S® - NEW LONDON
OCEAN BEACH PARK

9/17
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S® - ENFIELD
ENFIELD SENIOR CENTER

9/24
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S® - LITCHFIELD
WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER

9/24
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S® - NEW HAVEN
LIGHTHOUSE POINT

10/1
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S®
- GREATER HARTFORD
PRATT AND WHITNEY STADIUM AT
RENTSCHLER FIELD

10/8
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S®
- NORWALK/FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CALF PASTURE BEACH
November is National Family Caregiver month. We recognize, honor and celebrate caregivers who unselfishly give of themselves to provide quality care and enhanced moments in life, for those diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or a related dementia.

During the month of November our Annual Excellence in Caregiving Luncheons were held throughout the state of Connecticut. We know how stressful, isolating and challenging caregiving can be and we want to make sure that caregivers know how much they are loved, appreciated and vital to so many. Family members and community partners were able to nominate a special caregiver and attend luncheons to recognize over 100 caregivers throughout the state who were honored with the Alzheimer’s Association Excellence in Caregiving Award.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO AARP AND BRIGHTVIEW ON NEW CANAAN FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THESE EVENTS.

THERE ARE 177,000 CAREGIVERS IN CT PROVIDING 201 MILLION HOURS OF UNPAID CARE
In recognition of National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness month in November, Senator Chris Murphy hosted a special round table in conjunction with the Alzheimer’s Association. Advocates, family members, and doctors packed a conference room on November 22nd at the 150-year-old Mary Wade Home, an assisted-living facility in New Haven. They shared their knowledge and experience on the effects of Alzheimer’s, a disease Murphy called a national crisis.

IN RESPONSE, U.S. SEN. CHRIS MURPHY IS BACKING AN INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS.

“Five-and-a-half million Americans have Alzheimer’s disease and over the course of the next several decades that number is expected to triple,” he said.

Murphy talked about increased costs, squeezed budgets, and the lack of support for family members who give up their jobs to care for loved ones with Alzheimer’s. He’s proposed legislation, the Social Security Caregiver Credit Act, which he hopes will provide an incentive.

“What this bill does is it says if you’re a caregiver and you’re providing regular care for a loved one and you have had to leave work because of it, or you’re not working full-time because of it, you shouldn’t lose credit for Social Security purposes because you have decided to care for a relative,” Murphy explained.

We look forward to continuing to work with Senator Murphy and our federal and Connecticut legislators to make an important impact in the lives of those affected by Alzheimer’s disease.
More than 74,000 people in Connecticut have Alzheimer’s disease and until there is a cure, every action we take is aimed at helping people to live with the disease and moving research toward effective treatments.

The Alzheimer’s Association Connecticut Chapter’s outreach and support has increased each year to meet the needs of those living with the challenge of Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

### Mission Metrics During the Past Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Education</strong></td>
<td><strong>239</strong></td>
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<td>Programs provided to</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professional Training</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainings provided to</td>
<td><strong>667</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By the End of Year 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>149,260</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service contacts provided to people in Connecticut through Helpline Calls, visits to Care &amp; Support web pages on alz.org, Medic Alert + Safe Return &amp; online education programs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Alzheimer’s Association is the World’s Leading Voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s Care, Support and Research.

48,442,898 Media impressions to raise awareness
CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT
MedOptions

Headquartered in Old Lyme, CT with 796 employees, MedOptions is the nation's largest provider of behavioral health services to residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. MedOptions has been a Corporate Champion of the Alzheimer’s Workplace Alliance since 2015.

MedOptions partners with skilled nursing and assisted living facilities across the nation to provide expert behavioral health services, improving the overall mental health in elderly patients through the use of memory care evaluations, medication management, and behavioral interventions. Their clinicians are experienced in dementia and Alzheimer’s care, long term behavioral health care in elderly populations, and neurocognitive testing.

For MedOptions their role goes well beyond administering a treatment plan for a patient with a diagnosis. They have taken a strong stand to support research, education and awareness for Alzheimer’s through a partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association. Through sponsoring and hosting statewide habilitation training in Connecticut, collaborating with the association to provide future telehealth pilot programs to reach facilities and caregivers in rural areas, and a statewide sponsorship of the New London Walk to End Alzheimer’s, they are working tirelessly to support the Alzheimer’s Association. This support enables the Alzheimer’s Association to carry out its mission to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Ed Mercadante, CEO of MedOptions provides the vital top down support of the cause that is important with a corporate champion. He is an active member of the Alzheimer’s Association Connecticut Chapter Board of Directors. Ed has fostered a culture of care and concern for wellness, education and support for those living with Alzheimer’s disease. Each year, he and his employees come out in force to support the Walk to End Alzheimer’s and you can often find him at many of our walks, manning the MedOptions table and greeting constituents. The Walk is an opportunity for MedOptions employees, along with friends and family members to experience firsthand the difference they are making in the lives of people living with memory loss.

In 2015, Bernadette Greatorex, Director of Business Development accepted her nomination to participate in the inaugural class of the Alzheimer’s Association Woman’s Champions. She developed and launched a dedicated blog on their corporate website highlighting MedOption's Alzheimer’s Workplace Alliance commitment and states “MedOptions is proud to be a partner of the Alzheimer’s Association, and we’re also proud to employ so many individuals who share a passion for promoting and supporting Alzheimer’s research and awareness. It truly is a cause that resonates with so many of us, both professionally and, oftentimes, personally.”

THE ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION IS PROUD TO SPOTLIGHT MEDOPTIONS AS ONE OF OUR KEY CORPORATE SUPPORTERS.
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Andrea L. Tallent
Barbara Thomason
Michael Tobin

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Gale Anderson
David H. Angliss
Peter Angus
Mary Celeste Anthes
Pat Auwood
Melissa W. & Robert Bagdorff
Philip Battaglia
Elaine Blount
Judith Bogin
Gail Byrnes
Salvatore Camerota
Alexandrina Cardoso
Richard Cavannah
George Chatzopoulos
Peter E. Chelico
Kate Conway
Rachel Core
Tricia Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Day
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Jay Frechette
Suzanne Frederickson
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Jerry & Gerald M. Hall
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Alec Burger
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Richard A. Hobbard
Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Hobbs
Lily Holthoff
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The Alzheimer’s Association gratefully acknowledges the following corporations, foundations, trusts and organizations for their generous support during our fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 6TH
20th Annual Dementia Education Conference
Recognizing 20 years of excellence in dementia education
Throughout the years, the Alzheimer’s Association has united experts worldwide to present the latest information in dementia care practices to professionals, family members and persons living with the disease in Connecticut and surrounding states. Join us as we reflect on past accomplishments, integrate the present and envision a future of a world without Alzheimer’s disease. Our keynote speakers from our very first conference in 1997 will be joining us again this year. Dr. Stephen G Post, PhD, Director, Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics; Professor of Family, Population and Preventative Medicine at Stony Brook University will be the keynote speaker. In addition, Zaven Khachaturian, Ph.D, will provide a research breakout session on the day of the conference. Dr. Khachaturian is the Senior Science Advisor to the Alzheimer’s Association, and Editor-In-Chief of Alzheimer’s & Dementia: Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association. He is recognized as the architect of the National Institutes of Health’s research program on the neurobiology of Alzheimer’s.

APRIL 19TH
State Lobby Day
At the Connecticut State Capitol. Join us as we meet with our Connecticut legislators to raise awareness and advance change for those affected by Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementias in Connecticut.

MAY 5TH
Celebrating Hope
The premier event in Greenwich celebrates a milestone year with the fifth annual event to take place Friday, May 5, 2017 at L’escale at the Delamar Hotel in Greenwich. This year’s benefit will offer silent and live auctions, featured speakers, dinner and dancing.
JUNE 10TH
Brain Ball
3rd annual Brain Ball at the CT Science Center in Hartford – Where Science Meets Compassion. The community’s most influential and respected political, business and social leaders will come together to champion the fight against Alzheimer’s disease.

JUNE 21ST
The Longest Day
The Longest Day is all about love. Love for all those affected by Alzheimer’s disease. On the summer solstice, team up with the Alzheimer’s Association and select any activity you love — or an activity loved by those affected — to help end Alzheimer’s. Together, we will raise funds and awareness for care and support while advancing research toward the first survivor of Alzheimer’s.
Join us in the fight to End Alzheimer’s

Alzheimer’s Association Connecticut Chapter
Women’s Champions

The Alzheimer’s Association Connecticut Chapter serves the 74,000 people in Connecticut living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias and the 177,000 caregivers who provide unpaid care for their friends and family.

- 24/7 Helpline 1-800-272-3900
- Care and Support
- Community, Professional and Online Education
- Advocacy
- Volunteerism
- Events and Fundraising

alz.org/ct
860.828.2828

OFFICE LOCATIONS
Southington (main)
Hamden
Norwalk
Norwich
New Milford

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
24/7 Helpline 1.800.272.3900