

## 2015 Public Policy Priorities

**480,000 Floridians are living with Alzheimer's disease, and over 1 million people are caring for them.** The Florida Coalition of the Alzheimer's Association is working towards making Florida “**dementia capable**” state - which means

*The ability to identify individuals with dementia and their caregivers, and to provide services that improve the quality of life for persons living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.*

In 2012, the Alzheimer's Association spearheaded the Purple Ribbon Task Force which developed the 2013 Alzheimer State Plan. In 2015, the Alzheimer's Association supports:

### 1 Increasing Respite Services

Dementia caregiving is a billion-dollar unpaid industry in Florida. More than 1 million Floridians provide daily unpaid care for a person with dementia. In 2014, the Florida Legislature invested an additional \$4 million recurring funds for caregivers. In 2015, we will work to:

Increase STATEWIDE funding for Alzheimer caregiver respite (ADI Respite Line Item).  
REQUEST: Additional \$ 2 million Recurring

### 3 Ensuring Multi Cultural Outreach

Studies have shown that African Americans are twice as likely, and Hispanics are one-and-a-half times as likely to have Alzheimer's than Caucasians. In 2015, we will work to:

Partner with agencies or organizations of like-mind to develop a public campaign that will promote dementia-specific services, information and resources to Hispanics and African-Americans families.

### 2 Enhancing Dementia Training

Dementia training is central to quality care. In 2001, 2003, the Alzheimer's Association spearheaded new laws that required dementia training in nursing homes, adult day care, home health agency and hospice. In 2015, we will work to:

Close loopholes in existing training requirements and increase standards.

### 4 Supporting Alzheimer Research

The Alzheimer's Association is the largest private funder of Alzheimer's disease research in the U.S. In 2015, we will work to:

Support the State of Florida's allocation of \$3 million in funding for Alzheimer's research.