

Amazing Place *Family* Album



Ash Wednesday service at Amazing Place



A ladies trip to Kegg candies



AP women watch candy being made



Audubon Society speaker shows off an owl

AMAZING PLACE

A day center for adults with mild to moderate dementia

Family Spirit

Monthly News and Program Calendar

MARCH 2016

Knowing What to Expect—Stages of Alzheimer’s

by CAROL COOPER, Care Team Director

One common question asked after a dementia diagnosis is “What should I expect after diagnosis?” The second question is “How long will I have?” The uncertainties can feel scary and overwhelming. At Amazing Place, we have witnessed countless participants who have had Alzheimer’s disease and each one has been affected in somewhat different ways and at different rates. For some, their cognition has declined while their ability to do activities of daily living remain intact. For others, it’s been the reverse. And, for some, both cognition and activities of daily living have declined.

Surprisingly, 55% of people with Alzheimer’s disease or their caregivers have not been told of their diagnosis.* In an effort to ensure our families are knowledgeable about the diagnosis and what to expect, below is a summary of the symptoms of the three stages of Alzheimer’s. Note that people with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) have an increased risk of developing the disease, but not all develop Alzheimer’s.

Mild stage:

- Problem with words and names
- Trouble remembering names
- Difficulty in work or social environments
- Misplacing items
- Difficulty with planning and organizing

Moderate Stage

- Forgetting own personal story and life events
- Difficulty remembering address and phone numbers
- Difficulty remembering schools or graduations
- Need assistance in choosing clothes for the season and social settings
- Trouble with controlling bladder and bowels
- Change in sleep patterns
- Increased risk of wandering and getting lost
- Personality and behavioral changes

Severe Stage

- Require full-time, around the clock assistance
- Lose awareness of recent experiences
- Require high levels of assistance with daily activities and personal care
- Challenges with eating, walking and eventually swallowing
- Increasing challenges with communicating
- Vulnerable to infections, especially pneumonia

At Amazing Place, we are here to serve those with mild to moderate dementia. As participants decline, it is our goal to preserve their dignity and accommodate to their needs as best we can. When we can no longer meet those needs, we are committed to assisting each family with the best next step plan for your loved one.

*According to Alzheimer’s Association



Carol and Huguette V.