



Enriching lives through fellowship, memory care, and wellness

SPRING 2013

Family Caregivers report improved quality of life for themselves and for their loved ones who attend Amazing Place!

An independently-conducted survey of family caregivers in Fall 2012 reported BENEFITS to participants and their family caregivers.

Sharon Ostwald, PhD, RN, was commissioned by the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Tracey Brown, as an independent consultant in the spring of 2012. Her role was to conduct an evaluation of the perceptions and satisfactions of Amazing Place stakeholders regarding the programs and services provided by the organization. As the first part of the evaluation, 70 caregivers who had received services during 2012 were surveyed. Thirty (43%) of the caregivers returned the anonymous surveys and eight (11%) attended focus group to express their opinions. Their responses are included in this issue.

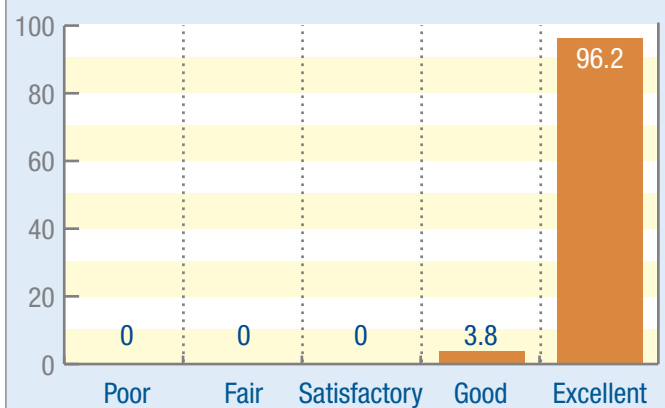


Sharon Ostwald, PhD, RN

HIGH FAMILY CAREGIVER SATISFACTION

Overall, family caregivers reported high levels of satisfaction with their experience at Amazing Place, and 92% reported that it exceeded their expectations.

CAREGIVERS' OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH AMAZING PLACE (%)



“The staff is so positive and welcoming that my mother looks forward to attending Amazing Place every day.”

– Daughter of Participant



Many family caregivers report that participants who attend Amazing Place are happier, enjoy socializing with others, and look forward to attending each week.

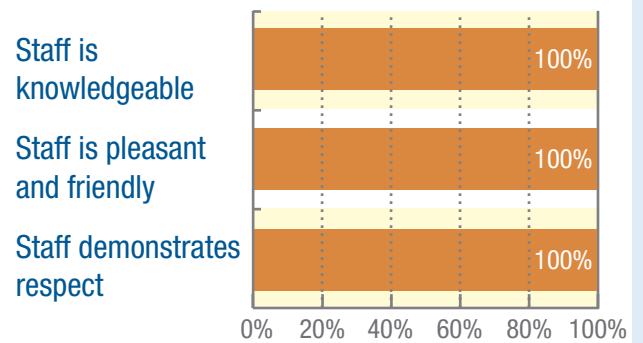
“God bless Amazing Place for knowing that caregivers need as much or more care as the person with Alzheimer’s. Thank You.”

– Participant Caregiver

IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PARTICIPANTS

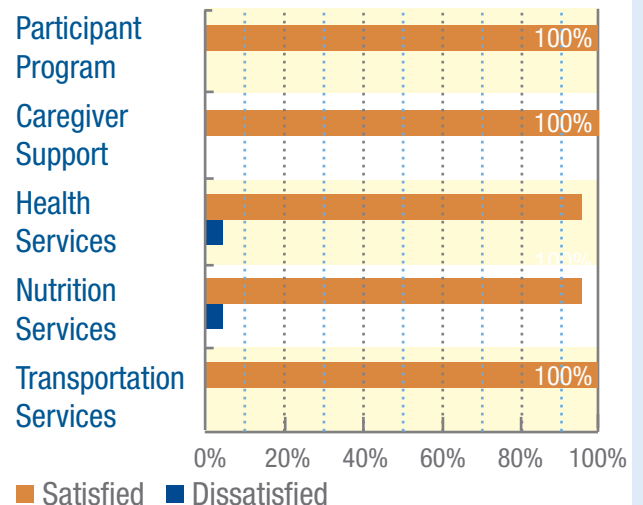
84% of the family caregivers reported that their loved ones experienced a higher quality of life because of their participation in Amazing Place programs.

FAMILY CAREGIVERS’ SATISFACTION WITH STAFF AT AMAZING PLACE (%)



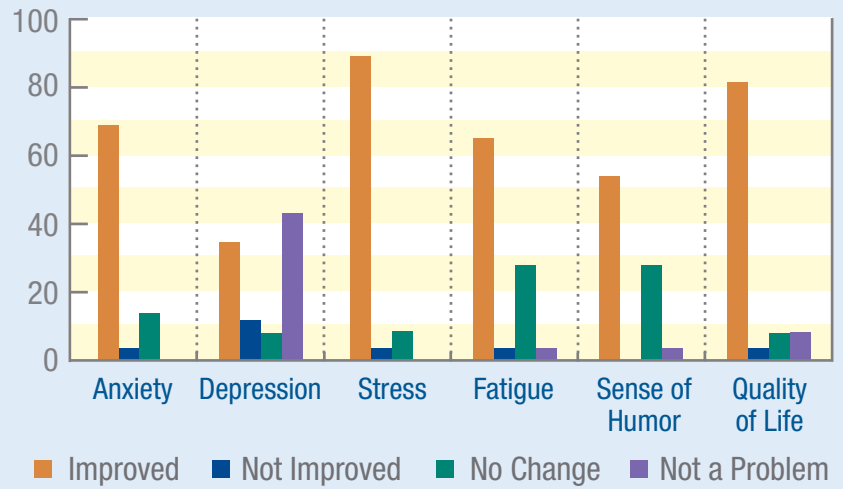
Family members also reported that Amazing Place is a safe and comfortable place with a wide variety of stimulating programs that their family members enjoyed attending. One wife said, “I like the warmth, the care, the dignity, and the safety offered to my husband.” Even though many participants could not remember what they did during the day, they expressed pleasure at being there with friends.

CAREGIVERS’ OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES (%)



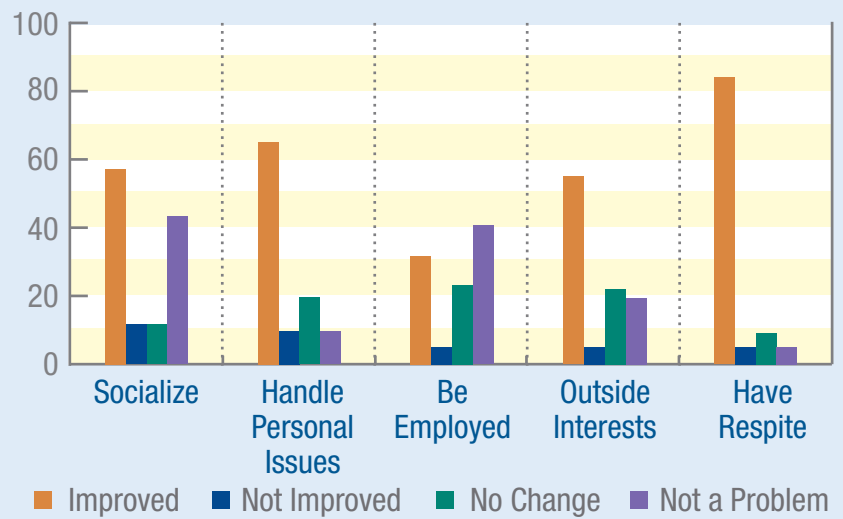
IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

BENEFITS REPORTED BY CAREGIVERS WHO USED AMAZING PLACE (%)



87.5% of family caregivers reported that their quality of life improved after they started using Amazing Place's services. Comments like "I wish I had done this sooner" and "I don't know what I would do without Amazing Place" were commonly heard from family caregivers.

DEGREE OF IMPROVEMENT IN CAREGIVERS' ABILITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO... (%)



By using the services offered at Amazing Place, caregivers are able to find time to handle personal and family affairs, return to employment with peace of mind, socialize with others, and pursue activities and special interests.



Family Support · Engaging Program · Friendships

Sharon Ostwald, PhD, RN,
joined the Amazing Place team as
Clinical Consultant in November.

Sharon K. Ostwald, PhD, RN, retired from the Center on Aging in the School of Nursing at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston on May 31, 2012, and holds the title of Professor Emerita. During her 18 year tenure at UT-Houston, she held the Theodore J and Mary E Trumble Professorship in Aging Research (1994-1998) and the Isla Carroll Turner Chair in Gerontological Nursing (1998-2012). She was the Director of the Center on Aging for eight years and the co-founder of the UT-wide Consortium on Aging where she maintains an ongoing presence. She was a co-principal investigator (PI) of the federally-funded Houston Geriatric Education Center from its inception in 2007 until her retirement in 2012.

Dr. Ostwald received her BS degree in nursing from Wheaton College and her MS and PhD degrees from the University of Minnesota. She was on the faculty in the School of Public Health and the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota for 20 years prior to her move to Houston in 1994. During that time she was a co-PI on the original research grant that launched the landmark Nun's Study on aging and Alzheimer's disease. She has over 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals.



POSITIVE BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING AMAZING PLACE

