

2017 In Review

By: Amy Sobrino, LSW & Shannon Nosbisch, CDP,

Founders of Effingham Area Alzheimer's Awareness

This past year saw unprecedented growth for Effingham Area Alzheimer's Awareness (EAAA)! EAAA began targeted outreach to Coles, Clay, Cumberland, Shelby, Fayette, and Jasper counties. Within the past year, **FIVE** new Forget-Me-Not Resource Centers were opened in these counties' local libraries. Modeled off of our 1st Forget-Me-Not Resource Center at the Effingham Public Library, all of these resource centers have materials focused around dementia, caregiving, and aging for anyone to check out, regardless if they have a library card. In addition to the new Forget-Me-Not Resource Centers, our monthly articles *Memory Moment* and *Forget-Me-Not Spotlight* are published in the local county papers, now reaching a total of **SEVEN** counties! Our monthly articles are now found in the Clay County Republican, Effingham-Teutopolis News Report, Greenup Press, Mattoon Journal-Gazette, Newton Press Mentor, Shelbyville Daily Union, and Vandalia Leader Union.

2017 has also brought the opportunity to move forward with our dementia friendly community initiative, Friends in Rural Places. We began by piloting our training to library staff, and plan to begin training other local businesses in 2018. Dementia friendly community training focuses on supporting local agencies and businesses in understanding dementia and how it affects their customers. Our training offers specific ways to support families affected by these diseases.

We are very proud of our efforts in 2017! Within the past year, EAAA has

- **Delivered 16 presentations** on dementia and caregiving to our local community
- **Attended 7 area Health Fairs**, providing information and education about Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
- **Presented to 420** total professionals, community members, and people living with dementia
- **Reached thousands of people in 7 total counties** through our monthly newspaper articles *Memory Moment* & *Forget-Me-Not Spotlight*

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Leadership Council, we want to thank all who have encouraged, helped, and joined in our efforts to support our local community members affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. 2018 is going to be a great year!

For more information about Memory Moment articles & Effingham Area Alzheimer's Awareness, check out their website at www.effinghamalz.org. If you are a caregiver & have specific questions or situations you would like information on, please feel free to call Shannon Nosbisch at 217-663-0010 or Amy Sobrino at 618-363-8372.