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Alzheimer's disease affects entire

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The Alzheimer's Association of America has reported 2010 figures of 5.3 million Alzheimer's disease (the most common type of dementia), Alzheimer's disease leading cause of death in the United States, and the annual cost to have been \$ million unpaid caregivers caring for family members or loved ones who suffer from

While there may be only one family member diagnosed with the illness, entire families individuals endure tremendous stress and emotional pain as all observe the disease affected individual.

The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners has designated Feb. 13-19 Dementia Staff Educational Week.

In preparation for staff presentations during this week, our staff has discovered "Bill of Rights" outlined in "The Best Friend's Approach to Alzheimer's Care," by V We'd like to share this with others in hopes it will preserve quality of life for diagnosed reassure caregivers they are providing their loved one(s) with the best care possible

An Alzheimer's disease bill of rights

Every person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder deserves:

- To be informed of one's diagnosis.
- To have appropriate, ongoing medical care.
- To be productive in work and play as long as possible.
- To be treated like an adult, not a child.
- To have expressed feeling taken seriously.
- To be free from psychotropic medications if at all possible.
- To enjoy meaningful activities to fill each day.
- To be out-of-doors on a regular basis.
- To have physical contact, including hugging, caressing and hand-holding.
- To be with the persons who know one's life story, including cultural and religious.
- To be cared for by individuals well-trained in dementia care.

Please join us in our efforts to provide quality care for those diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other form of dementia by educating those who care for them.
Everyone benefits!

Kay Thurmond
Charleston Health Care Center
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