

Who We Are

In 2009, two local business owners' families were separately hit with the devastating disease known as Alzheimer's. They spent years struggling to find local, relevant support and information to improve the quality of life for their loved ones. After several years of researching, training, living, caring and comforting their loved ones with Alzheimer's disease, they decided something more had to be done. So, in 2012 Cary Lopez, Executive Director and Kristine Allen, President, sold their successful fragrance business and launched Act Now Foundation.

Since 2012, Act Now Foundation, a grass roots 501 (c)(3) non-profit, has worked tirelessly to raise awareness, advocate and educate New Jersey about Alzheimer's disease, prevention, and early detection.

Our Vision & Mission

Our vision is to create a dementia-friendly New Jersey. To reduce the impact of Alzheimer's disease in New Jersey and to engage the communities to build supportive, capable, and Alzheimer's educated environments. To help caregivers become prepared, supported and more capable of coping with the communication challenges they face living and caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

Programs are funded in part by the Hudson County Division on Aging, Hudson County Office of Inclusion and Accessibility, Bergen and Essex County Division of Senior Services, Community Development Block Grants, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, and The Henry & Marilyn Taub Foundation.



CONTACT US

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DONATE TODAY

www.ActNowFoundation.org

Join our Alzheimer's Awareness Movement to help change minds forever!



**Support | Crisis Management |
Cognitive Assessments |
Long Term Care Planning |
Education | Resources | Advocacy**

*Dementia Resource Center
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Building Awareness One Mind at a Time



What We Do

Act Now Foundation's program priorities are driven by the needs of the community. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of those living with dementia and their caregivers by offering comprehensive dementia care. Programs are designed with the community and family in mind.

Knowledge is Power - Early detection of a cognitive decline via evaluations testing are essential for peace of mind and preparation for the future.

Quality Caregiving - Informed, connected, educated, and supported caregivers are able to cope better with depression, behavioral challenges, unexpected care requirements and combat personal stress and burnout.

Increased Independence - Can be achieved for both the caregiver and the individual living with dementia with a comprehensive dementia care plan.

The organization works tirelessly to reach those individuals and families that would not normally have access to supportive services. Due to our grass-roots efforts we have screened, educated, and supported over 5,000 individuals and families in New Jersey over the last 3 years.

What is Alzheimer's?

For families, caregivers, and society at large, Alzheimer's and related dementias can be emotionally and financially ruinous. Alzheimer's disease and other dementias generate catastrophic healthcare, economic, and social impacts—and these impacts are rapidly growing. In New Jersey, there are over 447,000 caregivers taking care of over 170,000 seniors with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, a progressive brain disease that slowly destroys memories and thinking skills. Alzheimer's often starts 5, 10, or even 20 years before symptoms appear. Symptoms usually start with difficulty remembering new information. In advanced stages, symptoms include confusion, mood and behavior changes, and inability to care for one's self and perform basic life tasks. Alzheimer's is ultimately fatal.

Alzheimer's disease is the most feared disease in the U.S.

The Foundation's name, "ACT" stands for Awareness, Cure, and Treatment of Alzheimer's



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

COGNITIVE ASSESSMENTS

Early diagnosis allows individuals to better prepare for their future care, make treatment and end of life decisions, and establish legal and financial plans while cognitively capable. The Alzheimer's Early Detection Project is the most comprehensive program in New Jersey offering free Memory Screening coupled with Educational Counseling and support mechanisms.

SUPPORT/CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Our Memory Club, Caregiver Support Groups, and Crisis Management provides individual and community-based peer support service for the special needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their care partners.

EDUCATION

We offer various learning and development programs for individual caregivers, First responders, civic organizations, seniors, or professionals on a path to Certified Dementia Practitioners certification. Classes are bilingual and led by a staff of Certified Alzheimer's disease and Dementia Care Trainer's Certified Dementia Practitioners, and PAC Certified independent Trainers.

LONG TERM CARE PLANNING

Those with early signs of dementia can remain living independently for years before seeking assistance. Lives may be complicated by environmental factors, lack of treatment, insufficient access to resources, lack of knowledge, and little support. Services promote quality care and medical and financial planning which prepare families for the future.

ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

The Alzheimer's epidemic will reach catastrophic proportions within our lifetime. This harsh reality can only be combated through increased public awareness, knowledge, and community and legislative involvement. Act Now Foundation is active in changing the way the community, business, and the government, approach management of Alzheimer's support services. Spearheading a 2 - bill legislation package and became law in 2016.