

## **Respite Nominations Press Release**

**10/2/07**

Top winners of the 2007 Innovative & Exemplary Respite Care Programs Serving Persons with Dementia have been awarded by the Michigan Dementia Coalition's Caregiver Support Workgroup. A variety of new and innovative programs have been implemented in home and community services that respond to diverse and changing needs of this clientele. The programs are applauded for their quality programming and efforts to provide meaningful care for persons with dementia and their families.

Those recognized at the Gold Level are:

- Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter's In-Home Respite Program for their person-centered programming, specialized support groups, and caregiver assessment and access to services;
- Silver Club Programs of the University of Michigan Geriatrics Center for their adaptation to different stages of disorders, reminiscence therapy, cognitive games, and community collaboration;
- Rebecca and Gary Sakwa Adult Day Program of the Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter offers late stage dementia programming, therapies such as Snoezelen, music, dance, and art, and also multilingual and intergenerational programming.

Silver Level Awardees are:

- Alliance Senior Day Services of the Center for Disability Services at Western Michigan University for their practicum for graduate students, counseling and strategies to assist families, assessment and research studies;
- Covenant Senior Day Program's "through the door" transportation starting in the home and flexible scheduling;
- Dorothy & Peter Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Care Program's engagement of participants in community contributions and extensive community educational offerings;
- Evergreen Commons Adult Day Health & Respite Program's Prayer Circle support of spiritual life for persons with dementia, particularly those in middle to advanced stages.

A growing number of facilities and organizations are adopting activities that engage the person with dementia, such as reminiscence and the arts. Many are providing dementia care training for their staff. Adult day centers and in-home respite provide a break from the responsibilities of caregiving. Professionals can help evaluate the person and provide the caregiver with ideas for enhancing caregiving. Adult day centers benefit the person with Alzheimer's disease by offering opportunities to be with others and participation in meaningful activities in a safe environment.

For more information about the Michigan Dementia Coalition check the website [www.dementiacoalition.org](http://www.dementiacoalition.org). For information about the MDC Caregiver Support Workgroup and the Innovative and Exemplary Respite Care Program Nominations contact [lcorneli@mphi.org](mailto:lcorneli@mphi.org).