Respite Awareness Day in S.C. At the statehouse
Tuesday, February 14, 2017   11:00 am. – 1:00 p.m.

Your voice and story are important.

Thanking legislators does make a difference! If you received respite funds from S.C. Respite Coalition, a Family Caregiver Support Program, Alzheimer’s Fund, or Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, our legislators would like to hear what getting breaks (respite) means to you. If you have respite through Continuum of Care or CLTC (Community Long Term Care Program) do not take it for granted. Tell your story!

Even if you cannot come, you can do something from home! For information and to register for the event or a packet of information, please e-mail us at respite@screspitecoalition.org or call 803-935-5027. Professionals and friends of family caregivers can speak up for these busy, stressed families too!

We Help Families take Breaks!

From January to October 31, 2016, SC Respite Coalition provided $108,416 directly to family caregivers of various ages to purchase respite from private providers, agencies, camps or adult day programs.

Priority is given to family caregivers with no other source of respite funds, especially those in mid-life or younger people. We help if families are on waiting lists, too.

Respite Vouchers Still Available

SCRC still has some funds for family caregivers caring for younger and midlife populations and for elders. Priority is for people with no other respite. To serve the most families, we work closely to coordinate with the ten Family Caregiver Support Programs statewide. This is for the family caregiver to take a break, not just for bills or to go to work. This is for people taking care of someone who can’t be left for any length of time or overnight. Guidelines are on the website.

Families are Grateful for Respite

“I really enjoyed my time that I got. It seems strange to get to go out and have some time to myself. I’m dreaming of when... I can spend the night away. I have been closed in for 3 ½ years. Thank you.”

--Bonnie Sue cares for her husband with a head injury.

“I am a full time working Mom to an amazing special needs little girl... When my husband got deployed a year ago I struggled to imagine how I was going to get everything done and still be the Mom I wanted to be: patient, organized, loving and giving, to name a few. The blessing of time that these respite funds have given have been immense. Without being able to recharge myself, my intentions, my emotions and my physical...”
being, I do not think I could have made it through the year. Thank you to everyone at South Carolina Respite Coalition for everything they do. Special thanks to Allison who spent extra time helping us!

Pam K, mother of little girl with Down Syndrome.

“...That was a huge gift and one we are so appreciative for.” Stephanie T, parent of 2 children with emotional disorders.

“Thank you so much! I really needed and enjoyed my vacation...” Elizabeth W., caregiver for her dad, age 70.

“This experience was a gift from Heaven; just when I needed it most. I really can tell a difference since I was able to get out of the house to enjoy some ‘me’ time. Thank you so very much...I’m no longer on anti-depressant meds. I would like to receive these services again, if possible.” Patricia G., mother of 25 year-old son with Autism.

“I used my voucher To take care of my Medical appoint- ments, run errands for her, and do something for me.” Ernest M. cares for his wife who has Dementia and he chose to use an agency

I “got school work done so I can finish my master’s degree. I was also sick [in] this period.” Shannon, (29) cg. for grandma (79.)

“It was a better choice to find our own caregivers, they were more flexible in time and much cheaper than the agency...Thank you, Respite Coalition for giving me a break!” Maria G, mother of very active infant with Down Syndrome.

Alzheimer’s Care Respite $$ Up!

S.C. Legislators raised the Alzheimer’s Family respite funding from $778,000 to $900,000 a year! SCRC believes this is a sign that years of respite education has made a difference. Also it is clear that caregiving issues are touching legislators and their own families!

S.C. Legislators “get” respite!

In spring of 2016, the S.C. legislature approved $1 million MORE for respite for Family caregivers of elders, bringing the total recurring amount in the S.C. Aging Budget to $2 million! Most importantly this amount will be in the Lt. Governor's aging budget every year.

There is recognition that as every population is living longer, the family must give care for many years. With shorter hospital stays, family caregivers are now medical people, medication managers, therapists, wound care experts, and nursing assistants. Legislators know that keeping the family caregiver supported and loved ones at home is saving the nation millions.

The economic value of the care given by family members is astounding. A 2011 study by Reinhard L. Feinberg, A. Houser and R. Choula for the AARP Public Policy Institute estimated the value of informal care in 2009 exceeded $450 billion, more than twice the estimated value of formal care. (Family Caregiver Alliance newsletter, 11/26/16)

Take note: Another $.6 million ear-marked for respite is requested in the 2017-18 S.C. Aging budget to be recurring. Your voice is needed!

Legislature Funds Respite Beds

SC Respite Coalition supported the S.C. Disabilities and Special Needs budget request for $1 million for eight “non-crisis” beds, two each at the four residential institutions in various parts of S.C. Kudos to the S.C. Legislature for approving this!

Family caregiving for individuals born with special needs is a lifetime compared to caring for elders, which averages 5 years. While many people do not want their loved ones in an institution even for a night or two, for many families these beds, available 365 days a year will be most welcome. This is one a few options for overnight respite in S.C. It is the Respite Coalition’s goal to create more respite choices for all age groups.
Staff Changes at SC Respite

Executive Director, Susan Robinson, will retire in early 2017 after 15 years, part time or full time with the Coalition. Susan began in 2001. After a career in human services, aging, and volunteer administration, her experience in non-profit organizations was ideal.

As SCRC grants and donations fluctuated, Susan worked full time as a social worker at a hospice while running the Coalition nights and weekends. Five faith community conferences were held during that period.

In 2009, S.C. secured one of the first 12 Lifespan Respite Grants from the U.S. Administration on Aging. The Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging managed it and Family Connection of S.C. and SC Respite Coalition were two key partners. The grant was $200,000 to last all 3 years. The subsequent federal and other funds have enabled the educational work and development of voucher funding.

Allison Poole started in 2010 as Program Coordinator. In 2012 Susan returned to SCRC full time.

Janet Altman, Assistant Director assists with administration and oversight of grant functions, securing new funds and developing the Lifespan Respite Network. She now leads our (DDSN) family selected respite screening, training, and recruitment project.

Stephanie Sumner and Joice Gouw, Program Assistants, round out the staff, with one other employee to be hired soon.

In Memory and Gratitude

S.C. Board of Directors

Our board guides the S.C. Respite Coalition and we are grateful for their time and commitment! We are sad to note the death in March of our longtime Treasurer, Charles McLafferty of Orangeburg. He was involved in S.C. Disabilities Advocacy and service for many years. Also noted is the death of Ken Sulser, tireless volunteer with people with brain injuries, and we express appreciation to Henry Miller as he leaves the board.

We are grateful for the continuing commitment of current board members, Kathy Mayfield-Smith, Courtney Davis, Gail Marion, Maria Patton, Terrie Gaskin-Bryant, Ernie Tate, and Rebecca Smith.

Respite Programs Give Dementia Care

There are 3 new social model day respite programs in S.C. These are part day programs to relieve family caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s or dementia.

- Loving Hearts Respite Care, Harleyville
  Held at the First Baptist Church
  Bambi Rushton, Program Coordinator
  Email: LovingHearts@thearkofsc.org
  Phone: (843) 670-2215

- Golden Corner Respite Care, Seneca, S.C.
  Held at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension every Thursday.
  Contact: 864-973-7590 or GoldenCornerRespiteCare@gmail.com

- Respite Care Club,
  Crooked Creek Park, Chapin
  Wednesday and Fridays, 9:30a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
  One time registration fee of $10.
  Contact Marsha Clayman: 803-917-5502
Mark Your Calendar - For MidlandsGives, May 2, 2017!

Online giving will be promoted on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 so please get into the spirit and check us out. Look for “power hours,” matching funds and incentives that day to increase the value of your on-line donation. Look us up at MidlandsGives.org

From left to Right: Allison Poole, Susan Robinson, and Janet Altman at Midlands Gives, 2016.

THANKS to all Low Country Giving Day 2016 donors. We apologize if we never mailed a thank you note, but we got your money BUT NOT your names! In 2017, Coastal Community Foundation will not participate, however.

SCRC Is Working With S.C. DDSN Needing New Respite Caregivers

The SCRC is doing on-line training for family caregivers and respite providers within the SC Department of Disabilities & Special Needs “Family Selected Respite Program.” SCRC documents background checks and trains as required by DDSN and Medicaid.

This is to make sure all the families and the respite providers have the same training statewide and to prepare them to work with fiscal agents that take care of IRS requirements and process payments for families who employ their own respite providers.

Most families and consumers will choose their own people, but if you would like to be screened and trained so your name could be placed on a general list, please contact us around February 1. It is our goal to develop that general list, by county, for families and consumers in DDSN who do not already know anyone to give them a break using these funds.

Long-term Care Planning
SC Work Goes On

The S.C. Respite Coalition worked with many influential organizations to develop a report Creating Direction: A Guide for Improving Long-Term Care in South Carolina, June 2015. Dignity, quality, choices, the best care, independence, affordability, access and support were all considered for all age groups and populations either aging or with special needs.

To read the report or a summary go to www.imph.org—particularly page 44 & 45 “Improve access and funding for flexible respite services.”

SCRC is working with the Alzheimer’s Association, the Institute on Medicine and Public Health and Lt. Gov. Office on Aging related to respite and caregiving issues. A group is trying to establish a provider registry. See the June, 2016 progress report http://imph.org/creatingdirection1yearupdate/

News on Facebook and Twitter!

We now use Facebook and twitter (@screspite) so “follow us” for up to date information and news!

Respite is a short break for caregivers of any age of a loved one dependent on them. The Respite Coalition is the only statewide non-profit agency working to increase respite for caregivers of all ages.

P. O. Box 493 Columbia, S.C., 29202 (803) 935-5027 (803) 935-5229 (fax) toll free: 1 (866) 345-6786 e-mail: respite@screspitecoalition.org www.screspitecoalition.org

Proud to be part Of the S.C. Lifespan Respite Network!