

WE UNDERSTAND THAT CARING FOR A PERSON WITH ALZHEIMER'S / DEMENTIA OR A CHILD WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS CAN PRESENT UNIQUE CHALLENGES. WE WANT TO HELP YOU KEEP THE PERSON YOU CARE FOR SAFE AND GIVE YOU GREATER PEACE OF MIND. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE NORTHERN NEVADA ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CALL CENTER AT:

**1-800-272-3900**

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO REVIEW THE ENCLOSED ITEMS IN THIS WANDERING INFORMATION KIT.

IT COULD SAVE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE OR CARE FOR.

WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE • ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN NEVADA  
WASHOE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN NEVADA  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION • WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES  
RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT • SPARKS POLICE DEPARTMENT

KEEPING PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S / DEMENTIA SAFE IS A GROWING CONCERN IN NORTHERN NEVADA...



WE WANT TO KEEP THOSE YOU LOVE OR CARE FOR SAFE.

**WHAT IS WANDERING?** "WANDERING" REFERS TO A VARIETY OF BEHAVIORS THAT MAY RESULT IN PEOPLE AT ANY AGE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S, DEMENTIA, OR COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS BECOMING LOST OR HAVING THEIR SAFETY AT RISK. ANYONE WHO HAS MEMORY PROBLEMS AND IS ABLE TO WALK IS AT RISK FOR WANDERING. EVEN IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DEMENTIA, A PERSON CAN BECOME DISORIENTED OR CONFUSED.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAS BECOME A COMMON PROBLEM FOR PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS TO END UP LOST. ACCORDING TO THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION, MORE THAN 6 OF EVERY 10 PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA WANDER. PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S / DEMENTIA HAVE BECOME AN INCREASING CONCERN IN THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HAVE SEEN A SHARP INCREASE IN CALLS RELATING TO SENIORS WITH MEMORY PROBLEMS WHO HAD WANDERED AND BECAME MISSING. ALTHOUGH COMMON, WANDERING CAN BE DANGEROUS IF THE PERSON IS NOT FOUND WITHIN 24 HOURS. UP TO HALF OF THOSE WHO WANDER RISK SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. IN NORTHERN NEVADA, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS, HAVE SAVED MISSING PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA FROM DANGEROUS LOCATIONS NEAR WATER, DRAINS, AND HEAVY BRUSH MILES AWAY FROM HOME.

WE WANT TO HELP YOU KEEP THEM SAFE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT NO ONE THING IS GOING TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF A PERSON WITH MEMORY OR COGNITIVE CHALLENGES. THE ENCLOSED DISC IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN MANY COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF WANDERING AND TO BE BETTER PREPARED IF WANDERING DOES OCCUR.

THE CD INCLUDES:

- **INFORMATION ON WHO IS AT RISK FOR WANDERING**
- **TIPS TO PREVENT WANDERING**
- **HOW TO MAKE A PLAN (INCLUDES A COPY OF THE WANDERING ID KIT)**
- **LOCAL AGENCIES AND FREE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU THAT CAN HELP YOU**

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR CARE DOES GET LOST, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU CALL 911 TO BEGIN SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS IMMEDIATELY. WITH EACH PASSING DAY THE ODDS OF FINDING ANY MISSING PERSON DECREASE, BUT WHEN THE MISSING PERSON IS LIVING WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT, THE ODDS ARE WORSE.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU ORGANIZE AND REGULARLY UPDATE VITAL INFORMATION ON THE PERSON YOU ARE CARING FOR, SUCH AS A PHOTO, PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS. THERE ARE TWO VERY IMPORTANT TOOLS YOU CAN PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE EVENT SOMEONE IN YOUR CARE BECOMES MISSING OR WANDERS.

**EVERY MINUTE COUNTS.**

- **FIRST, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SIGN UP ONLINE FOR ALERT ID'S MY FAMILY WALLET AT [WWW.ALERTID.COM](http://WWW.ALERTID.COM). MY FAMILY WALLET OFFERS A SECURE WAY FOR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS TO STORE INFORMATION SO THAT IN AN EMERGENCY, ALERTID CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTANTLY UPON YOUR REQUEST.**

- **SECOND, PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED WANDERING ID KIT AND KEEP IT IN A PLACE YOU CAN EASILY RETRIEVE IT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT. (A PRINTABLE VERSION OF THE KIT IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE ENCLOSED RESOURCE CD).**

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA OR ALZHEIMER'S DO NOT WANDER WITHOUT CAUSE. THEY TYPICALLY ARE GOING SOMEWHERE, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, AND DON'T ACTUALLY CONSIDER THEMSELVES LOST, SO THEY DON'T REACH OUT FOR HELP. OFTEN THEY ARE FOUND CONFUSED, FRIGHTENED, AND IN DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENTS THAT CAN AFFECT THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY. ADDITIONALLY, THE STRESS EXPERIENCED BY FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS WHEN A PERSON WITH DEMENTIA WANDERS AND BECOMES LOST IS SIGNIFICANT. HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE BEFOREHAND, SO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

