

NEWS AND POSSIBILITES FOR SENIORS HSTI

IN THIS ISSUE

CAREGIVING

Emergency Fund: Winter crisis looms......5



Fond memories: Oatmeal's powers.....13



Health Brief	2
Calendar	
Crossword	19

NEXT MONTH: Home for the **Holidays**



Is it dementia or normal aging? How to recognize the difference

By Alicia M. Colombo

Are you getting forgetful? Have you misplaced your keys lately? You might be concerned that it's something serious, like Alzheimer's. Almost 6 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association. It is estimated that one out of every nine people older than 65 has Alzheimer's or another dementia and that one in three seniors will die from a form of dementia.

"The incidence of Alzheimer's and other dementias is only expected to increase over time, as the baby boomers continue to age,"said Krista McKay, director of programs and services for the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter. "Beyond 65, every five-year age group has an increased risk for Alzheimer's."

Because Alzheimer's and other dementias

are so prevalent in older adults, It's important to know the difference between normal aging and signs of a problem — and when it may be time to seek help.

The aging process

It is normal for people in their 50s or 60s to have trouble with word retrieval or multitasking. "Older people, compared to younger people, may struggle to learn multiple things at one time," said Jason Karlawish, M.D., codirector of the Penn Memory Center. "But what they do learn, they retain over time." Retaining knowledge over time is known as fluid intelligence, and remembering the information is called crystallized intelligence. With aging, crystallized intelligence is stable or even increases as we learn new things. In contrast, · continued on page 14

November 2018 • Free

Caregiving

Seniors raising children face unique challenges

By Marcia Z. Siegal

Doris Roberts, 85, is among the thousands of older adults in Philadelphia who are raising grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other young PCA Program



relatives whose biological parents cannot care for them. "I raised six children; seven grandchildren, who are all adults now; and now I'm raising my great-grandson, Hydir," she said. Hydir, who is now 14, has been in Roberts' care since he was a baby.

"The way I see it, God gave me these kids," said

continued on page 16



Great-grandmother Doris Roberts gets a hug from her great-grandson, Hydir, whom she is raising.



PHILADELPHIA CORPORATION FOR AGING

WHO IS PCA?

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) is a nonprofit agency dedicated to serving Philadelphia seniors. In addition to bringing you Milestones newspaper, PCA offers:

- Care in the home
- Home-delivered meals
- Home repairs and modifications
- Protective services
- Senior centers
- Caregiver support
- Employment and volunteer programs
- Legal services
- Transportation



Published by Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

Holly Lange, President and CEO

Board of Directors

Katherine E. Galluzzi, D.O., E.A.C.O.F.P., *Chair* Judee M. Bavaria, *Vice Chair* Glenn D. Bryan, *Secretary* Barbara Waynant Murphy, *Treasurer*

Louis A. Bove, Esq. Lynn Fields Harris Angela Foreshaw-Rouse Lydia Hernandez-Velez Fran Miller Victor M. Negrón, Jr Satya B. Verma, O.D. Lenore Wasserman Scola John Whitman Eloise N. Young Jacqueline S. Zinn, Ph.D. Emeritus: Arthur E. Helfand, D.P.M.



- Ombudsman services
- Health education
- Information and referral

For more information, call the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040 or visit pcaCares.org.

> Call 24/7 to report suspected elder abuse. PCA Helpline: 215-765-9040 Outside Philadelphia toll-free: 888-215-765-9041 (TDD) www.pcaCares.org

Milestones is published monthly and distributed at more than 1,100 locations throughout Philadelphia, lower Bucks and eastern Montgomery counties.

Check us out online: pcaMilestones.org.

Editor: Alicia M. Colombo 215-765-9000, ext. 5081 PCA, 642 N. Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19130 Email: milestonesnews@pcaCares.org

Advertising: Joan Zaremba 215-765-9000, ext. 5051 Email: Joan.Zaremba@pcaCares.org

Subscriptions & Distribution:

Home delivery: \$12/year To subscribe or find a distributor: Emily Ozga, 215-765-9000, ext. 5050 Email: Emily.Ozga@pcaCares.org

The views expressed in Milestones are not necessarily those of Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA). Milestones will not knowingly accept or publish fraudulent or misleading advertising. Milestones reserves the right to edit, revise or reject ads. Milestones assumes no responsibility for errors, misprints, omissions or misinformation; for failure to publish an ad; or for any damages of any kind. Neither the publisher nor any other party is rendering expert advice in this publication. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced without the permission of PCA. ©2018 Philadelphia Corporation for Aging. All rights reserved.

Health Brief

Practicing self-care is essential for a caregiver's overall health, well-being

Practicing self-care is integral to leading a healthy lifestyle. However, people often place the needs of others above their own, putting their physical and mental health at risk in the process. This is especially true of caregivers. Caring for the needs of others often comes at the expense of meeting one's own needs. The self-care checklist below was put together by Iona, a senior services program based in Washington, D.C. It can serve as a reminder for seniors to keep their individual needs at the forefront every day, even if they are caring for another.

Physical needs

☐ I'm seeing my doctor(s) regularly and keeping up with recommended appointments.

- ☐ I'm exercising daily.
- ☐ I'm maintaining a balanced diet.

☐ I'm getting the recommended seven to eight hours of sleep each night.

I'm taking my medications on schedule (if applicable).

☐ I'm not misusing alcohol or drugs.

Social needs

☐ I'm seeing family and friends on a regular basis and keeping up with the lives of people in my social circle(s).

☐ I'm participating regularly in at least one activity I enjoy.

I have fun at least once a week.

Emotional needs

□ I engage regularly in at least one healthy outlet for stress. (This can include enjoying a hobby, confiding in someone, writing, reading, exercising, meditating or otherwise relaxing.)

When I feel I cannot handle difficult emotions on my own, I reach out to those I rely on for emotional support.



Spiritual needs

□ I take time to engage in the faith-based practice that helps to sustain me (if applicable).

Caregiving-specific needs

☐ I understand the diagnosis and prognosis for my loved one's condition, so I am prepared for the challenges of caregiving.

I understand the financial and legal situations surrounding my caregiving responsibilities.

□ I have a plan for the future as my loved one's needs change, or I know where to get help making a plan.

☐ I'm not tolerating abuse from the person I am caring for.

☐ I'm asking for, and accepting, help from family, friends, neighbors and professionals.

While being aware of one's own needs is an important first step to ensuring a healthy lifestyle, caregivers may need additional support. For caregivers who are struggling, PCA's Caregiver Support Program offers education and training, information and referrals, and financial benefits for those who qualify. Visit pcaCares.org/caregivers or see article on page 16 for more information.

Checklist source: Iona.org





Our Community. Our Health.

PA Health & Wellness is focused on whole health care, reflecting on a person's total well-being and meeting each person's unique needs. Providing whole health care and long term supports and services requires us to broaden our services and provide solutions to address all of life's changes.

Our full continuum of health, support, and services options provides diverse solutions to improve outcomes. We understand and address barriers to health and provide access to the best care for each and every person to live his or her best life.

PAHealthWellness.com 1-844-626-6813



Our experienced and compassionate care-givers offer:

- Personal Care
- Skilled Nursing
- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy

We offer flexibility, day and night-time shifts. Our personal caregivers provide help with laundry, meals, housekeeping, medication reminders, and more.

Charter Home Health accepts private pay patients, waiver approved patients, and long-term care insurances. We are fully insured and bonded.

We provide detailed one-on-one guidance to patients in applying for & securing approval for the PA Waivers: Aging, CommCare, Attendant, Independence, & OBRA. Employment opportunities (LPN, CNA, HHA). Call us today!

Caregiving

More millennials caring for elders

By Marcia Z. Siegal

While most people think of family caregivers as middle-aged or older, one-quarter of those caring for family members are considerably younger. These millennial caregivers (born between 1980 and 1996) play a critical role in families by providing unpaid care to their chronically ill, disabled and aging parents, grandparents or other relatives. The number of millennial caregivers continues to expand as the baby boomer generation ages. Many are studying in college or beginning their careers, building their professional networks, and starting families. Elder caregiving is not something that people in their early 20s to late 30s typically anticipate.

Conlan Crosley attests to the shock of suddenly becoming a caregiver. He was 32 when his mother, Dorothy Roberts, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2013, and he became her caregiver. The next five years proved to be a harrowing journey for both of them. A 2017 study by researchers at the University of Southern California reported that one in six millennial caregivers is providing care to a dementia patient. Around 40 percent of those millennials are the sole caregiver for their loved one, as was Crosley.

When symptoms of his mother's illness first became apparent, Crosley was an undergraduate at Temple University. He had previously supported himself as a union carpenter, but that work had dried up in 2008 during and following the Great Recession. To make ends meet, he was living at home with his mother. He remembers his shock when one day he came home to find her sitting alone in the basement. The house was totally dark. None of the lights were working. "I called up the electric company to find out what was going on, and it turned out that she had not paid her bills in months," Crosley said. "I started looking into all the bills. It was a mess." Soon after, a neurologist diagnosed Roberts with Alzheimer's disease. At that time, she was on disability leave from her job as a Pennsylvania Turnpike toll collector due



Courtesy: Conlan Crosley Millennial Conlan Crosley with his late mother, Dorothy Roberts, for whom he was caregiver.

to knee surgery. After years of often desperate financial struggles, she had recently reached the point where was finally able to buy a car and move from her tiny apartment to a house. She was so proud of this, her son remembers: "She had worked for 25 years to get out of destitution and have some dignity." Roberts, then 66, had a plan for her future and was looking forward to a secure retirement at the time of her choosing.

That plan changed, and Roberts retired when her Alzheimer's worsened. Crosley's plans also changed as he focused on his mother's increasing medical and personal care needs.

While Alzheimer's progresses differently for each individual, in Roberts' case, significant points of decline occurred roughly every six months for a while and then precipitously. "The first six months after her diagnosis, she was about 93 percent," Crosley said. "She was still driving to do errands. Six months later, she was about 85 percent. Each time she got worse, I would get used to it and say, 'It's not so bad. I can deal with it.' Eventually, things got a lot worse. She became really incontinent. She was up at all hours of the night. After these incontinence incidents, I would have to dress her and shower her. She hated being in the shower. Sometimes she would escape out of the house."

As winter looms, PCA Emergency Fund is in a major financial crisis

Alma Baron*, 82, is a volunteer in her community and a dedicated member of her church. She lives alone and often worries about how she can afford to heat her two-story home due to her limited income. Last December, she was out of home heating oil and in desperate need of help. A counselor at her neighborhood senior center made a referral to Philadelphia Corporation for Aging's (PCA's) Emergency Fund for Older Philadelphians on her behalf. As a result of help from

the fund, Baron received a delivery of 100 gallons of oil to keep her warm during the cold months.

This vital crisis assistance program for lowincome Philadelphia seniors is now itself in crisis. The Emergency Fund, which provides cash assistance to help low-income Philadelphia seniors purchase food, fuel, medications and other necessities, may have to shut down soon. As of late October, the fund had half the amount as at the same time last year, according to Chris Gallagher, director of PCA's Helpline; who oversees fund distribution This decrease is especially troubling going into the cold season, when demand for assistance is highest.

"You have no idea how much this helps," Baron said. "I often have to choose which bills I am going to pay, so the assistance from the Emergency Fund was a huge relief. This program is truly a blessing."

To compound the funding crisis, requests for help are increasing. "We saw the amount disbursed jump by 18 percent this last year over the previous year," Gallagher said. A total of \$184,023 in emergency assistance was provided between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 – an increase of nearly \$28,000 from the previous year. This increase included a 26 percent rise in referrals for home heating oil assistance and a 51 percent increase in the total dollars spent on oil.

"PCA has always placed the highest priority on caring for the most vulnerable older Philadelphians," said Holly Lange, PCA's president and CEO. "The Emergency Fund does just that – helping impoverished seniors in crisis pay for critical needs when they have nowhere else to turn." Lange also pointed out that Philadelphia has the second-highest



iStock

percentage of people 65 and older of the nation's 10 largest cities. Our city's elderly experience poverty at nearly double the rate of the elderly in the rest of the nation. "It is vital to ensure that the fund remains open," Lange said.

Since the Emergency Fund was created in 1979, it has only had to close down once due to lack of funds, from April to December of 2005. During that period, oil prices spiked from an average of \$1 to \$2.16 per gallon, driven partially

by the impact of Hurricane Katrina. However, Gallagher said PCA is planning for the worst this year, as predictions indicate there will be an extremely cold winter, increased demand for home heating assistance, and a rise in oil and other fuel costs.

PCA does not receive regular government funding to support the Emergency Fund and undertakes fundraising initiatives to address the need. The fund relies on corporate and foundation giving, donations from individuals, and funds raised by the agencies that are members of the Emergency Fund Coalition, an alliance of more than 20 communitybased social service organizations and service providers that coordinate fundraising efforts for the Emergency Fund. Fundraising goes on year-round.

For information on corporate and foundation giving, call Joan Zaremba, PCA's director of marketing and development, at 215-765-9000, ext. 5051, or email Joan.Zaremba@ pcaCares.org.

About the Emergency Fund

The Emergency Fund provides emergency support for eligible low-income older Philadelphians who have exhausted all other resources. Referrals are accepted only from recognized social service agencies and the clergy, and payments are made directly to the vendor. PCA administers the fund at no cost on behalf of the Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians.

To learn how to donate to the Emergency Fund or for more information, call the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040; or visit pcaCares. org/emergencyfund.

*Name changed to protect confidentiality



INTERNET ESSENTIALS[®] FROM COMCAST

95 per month + tax

NO CONTRACT NO CREDIT CHECK NO INSTALLATION FEE IN-HOME WIFI INCLUDED ACCESS TO 40 1-HOUR SESSIONS OF XFINITY WIFI HOTSPOTS EVERY <u>30 DAYS</u>

Internet Essentials gives you access to affordable, high-speed Internet. You may qualify if you have at least one child who is eligible for the National School Lunch Program or receive HUD housing assistance.

APPLY NOW InternetEssentials.com 1-855-8-INTERNET

INTERNET I

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. Limited to Internet Essentials service for new residential customers meeting certain eligibility criteria. Advertised price applies to a single outlet. Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. After initial participation in the Internet Essentials program, if a customer is determined to be no longer eligible for the program and elects a different XFINITY Internet service, regular rates will apply to the selected Internet service. Subject to Internet Essentials program terms and conditions. WiFi Hotspots: Available in select locations. Requires compatible WiFi-enable laptop or mobile device. Limited to forty 60-minute sessions per 30-day period per person/ account. If session is terminated before 60 mins. remaining time expires. Unused time does not carry over to subsequent sessions or 30 day periods. Not responsible for lost data resulting from terminated Internet session or any other reason. A maximum of up to 10 devices may be registered to a single XFINITY WiFi On Demand account. May not be combined with other offers. Call 1-855-846-8376 for restrictions and complete details, or visit InternetEssentials.com. © 2017 Comcast. All rights reserved.

Caregiving

Tips to help care for a cancer patient

By Constance Garcia-Barrio

Among life's storms, a cancer diagnosis hits like a hurricane. It can send shock waves not only through patients' emotions, finances and relationships, but also through those of caregivers. Some of us have faced or will face the dilemma of caring for someone with cancer – and cancer incidence increases with advancing age.

Medical breakthroughs offer the promise of long-term recovery. Cancer now has a 69 percent five-year survival rate, according to AARP's "Helping to Care for a Loved One with Cancer," a free online guide for caregivers available at aarp.org/caregiving/careguides/cancer. But during treatment, much rests on a caregiver's shoulders.

"Caregivers may find themselves helping to make decisions about insurance, money, transportation and day-to-day issues," said Matthew Stevenson, a licensed clinical social worker at Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center. Caregivers can keep some things in mind to help manage this difficult role.

Managing communication

Good communication assists the cancer caregiver and patient in navigating this difficult journey, Stevenson said. "It often helps if a patient and caregiver set up a weekly checkin time," he said. "That way, you avoid a situation where one person comes home from work exhausted, unable to have a quality discussion, but the patient feels eager to talk. If you have a pre-arranged time, both of you can feel rested and respected."

The stress of the illness can spotlight cracks in a relationship, Stevenson finds. "Seek professional help in that case," he said. "Anyone can benefit from therapy, especially in such a tough situation, but both people have to be open and willing. If things have gotten rocky but one person's still reluctant, you could



Trusted for coordination of services, including in-home care, since 1984. JEVS goes above and beyond to ensure you have control over your choices and needs, your preferences are met, and services are expertly tailored to meet those needs. You can count on us to assist you or your loved one.

Free services for those eligible:

- Personalized plan for long-term services and supports
- Dedicated Supports Coordinator who is reliable and responsive
- 24 hour, on-call supports
- Nursing home placement prevention planning and nursing home transition to home supports

www.jevshumanservices.org/Milestones Serving Philadelphia & Area Counties • 215-960-9610



ask, 'Do you think that what we're doing now is working? If not, why don't we try something different?' The questions may provide a much-needed opening." He also encourages patients and caregivers to try journaling as a way to express feelings.

Fear is often part of the picture, Stevenson notes. "It's OK to have anxiety," he said. "It doesn't mean there's something wrong with you. Cancer impacts everyone so differently."

Radical changes in the caregiver's activities and new limitations due to the loved one's needs may let anger creep in, Stevenson added. "Instead of aiming your anger at your partner or becoming self-critical, put the anger on cancer," he said.

Seeking help

Caregivers can use the magic of "yes" to lighten their load, therapists say. Make a list of chores and errands so that when friends and family members ask if they can help, you can give them concrete answers. For example, you may need someone to pick up groceries or medications, make meals or rake the leaves.

In another spin on the strength-in-numbers theme, experts suggest joining a support group to benefit from others' insights and to feel less alone. Hospitals and the American Cancer Society (ACS) can connect you with other cancer caregivers. The ACS can also help you arrange for meals and transportation and make suggestions about respite care that would give you a break.

The spiritual dimension may have a place not only in healing the patient but in strengthening the relationship as well, Stevenson advises. "Caregivers and patients may take comfort in prayer, meditation and other religious activities," he says.

Caregivers can play a role not only at home

iStock

but during medical appointments. Caregivers who are attuned to the patient may sense when he or she feels overwhelmed with information and ask questions on his or her behalf. "Don't be afraid to ask questions," Stevenson said. "You're not a physician, and not understanding some medical terms may leave you uneasy. The caregiver could also request a summary of a visit to review it without pressure."

Keep a bright outlook

Accentuate the positive, the ACS recommends. Caregivers can find satisfaction in helping the patient, deepening the relationship and meeting new friends through support groups.

It's also essential for both the caregiver and the cancer patient to have something to look forward to. "Even things on the micro-level of day-to-day make a difference," Stevenson said. "Are you anticipating your half-hour walk to unwind, a talk with a friend or an éclair for dessert? For a weekly treat you may want something more elaborate: a movie or a trip to your favorite restaurant. It refreshes caregivers so that they have more to offer the patient."

* * *

The American Cancer Society's helpline is available 24/7 at 800-227-2345 for information about many aspects of cancer caregiving. The website cancer.org offers information and resources for both cancer patients and caregivers, including the downloadable free booklets "If You're about to Become a Cancer Caregiver" and "Listen with Your Heart: Talking with the Person who has Cancer."

Native Philadelphian Constance Garcia-Barrio writes about many topics, including black history.



DHS Approved Aging Waiver Provider in Philadelphia, Lower Bucks, Delaware Counties, now servicing the Main Line Area!

A leader for IN-HOME CARE & FREE ASSISTED LIVING PLACEMENT for more than a decade.



In-Home Caregiving

- Meals Cooked and Served
- Transportation/Social Outings
- Domestic Services
- Personal Care Assistance

Free Placement Services

- Finding the Right Community
- Matching Budget, Health Care Needs, and Location
- Personal Tours
- Negotiating Rates

Contact us today for a FREE consultation! **Philly** • (267) 909-9248 **Lower Bucks** • (267) 812-5744

www.abcphillybristol.com



For seniors, aging and staying independent is not always simple. The Mercy LIFE services offered at home and in our adult day centers help seniors remain independent, active, and healthy.

- Staying as healthy as possible is easier with a team of medical professionals available 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
- The Social Work team supports seniors as they maintain control of life's decisions and daily tasks while feeling safe and fulfilled.
- Our Certified Recreational Therapists offer a variety of activities that promote physical movement and keep the mind active & creative, while having fun with other seniors.

No co-insurance, deductibles or payments due for services you receive.

Be Independent. Keep Active. Stay Healthy. That's LIFE! Call 215.339.4747 or visit mercylife.org for more information.



Community HealthChoices is coming: Here is what you need to know

As reported previously in Milestones, a major shift in the way Medicaid-funded long-term services are provided in the home is coming to Southeast Pennsylvania – Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties – in January.

Community HealthChoices (CHC) is Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care program for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and people with physical disabilities. The program has already begun in the southwestern part of the state and will affect more than 100,000 seniors or adults with disabilities in the southeastern region.

Under CHC, both physical health care and long-term services and supports (LTSS) – meaning home-based or nurs-

ing-home care – will be coordinated through three state-selected managed-care organizations (MCOs): Keystone First CHC, Pennsylvania Health & Wellness, and UPMC Community HealthChoices. CHC participants will have to choose one of these MCOs to coordinate their care.

CHC has been developed to enhance access to and improve the coordination of medical care and to create a person-driven, LTSS system in which people have choice and control in and access to a full array of services to support their independence, health and quality of life. LTSS help people perform "activities of daily living" such as bathing, dressing, preparing meals and administering medications.

Eligibility

Individuals are eligible for CHC if they are 21-plus and meet one of the following requirements:

• Receive both Medicare and Medicaid (known as "dually eligible");

• Receive LTSS in the attendant care, independence, COMMCARE or aging waivers (which will be phased out with the implementation of CHC);

• Receive LTSS in the OBRA waiver and are determined nursing-facility clinically eligible;

• Receive care in a nursing home paid for by Medicaid; or

• Participate in an Act 150 program, which provides attendant care services for people who are mentally alert but severely physically disabled, and are dually eligible.



Under Community HealthChoices, long-term services and supports such as personal care will be provided to many Pennsylvania seniors and people with disabilities through managed-care organizations.

Individuals cannot be enrolled in CHC if they receive services beyond supports coordination through the Office of Developmental Programs for an intellectual disability or autism.

Individuals who already participate in a Living Independently for Elders (LIFE) program can remain in their LIFE program and will not be moved into CHC unless they specifically ask to be. Anyone who is enrolled in CHC who would prefer to participate in a LIFE program and qualifies for LIFE will be free to do so.

Coverage

CHC covers the same physical health benefits that are part of the Medicaid Adult Benefit Package. The aging, attendant care, independence and COMMCARE waivers will be phased out with the implementation of CHC. The OBRA waiver will continue to cover people 18-20 who qualify for Medicaid LTSS and those who have a severe developmental physical disability and need an intermediate care facility or other related conditions level of care.

Behavioral health and drug and alcohol addiction treatment services are not a part of CHC and will be coordinated through a program called HealthChoices Behavioral Health. The CHC MCO must coordinate care with its members' HealthChoices Behavioral Health MCOs and Medicare coverage.

For more information about Community HealthChoices, see the Q&A article on the next page, go to healthchoices.pa.gov or call 1-833-735-4416.

05-09891

Community HealthChoices Q&A

Community HealthChoices (CHC) is Pennsylvania's mandatory managed-care program that will coordinate physician's care and community-based services for many seniors and people with disabilities. Anyone who is eligible for the program in Southeast Pennsylvania will transition into CHC on Jan. 1. Aging Well PA and Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) held community meetings throughout Philadelphia in recent months to educate those affected. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions about CHC. (For more information about CHC, see the article on page 8.)

Who is affected by CHC?

CHC is for "dual-eligibles" (people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, commonly known as "Medical Assistance"); anyone in aging, attendant care, independence, and COMMCARE waivers, which will be phased out; and people living in a nursing home that is paid for by Medicaid. Those eligible for CHC should have received an enrollment packet in the mail.

What is the purpose of CHC?

The program's intent is to help keep seniors at home, in the community, for as long as possible and give them a better quality of life by centralizing health and communitybased services, known as long-term services and supports (LTSS). These are the services they currently receive under the state's Aging Waiver and other waiver programs.

What will change with CHC?

Anyone who is eligible for CHC will be required to choose one of three managed care organizations (MCOs) to coordinate their care: Keystone First CHC, Pennsylvania Health and Wellness, or UPMC Community HealthChoices. The chosen MCO will administer your Medical Assistance coverage, as well as oversee LTSS.

Will CHC affect my Medicare benefits?

Enrollment in CHC or the choice of an MCO will not affect your Medicare coverage or benefits. Dual-eligibles can keep their existing primary care physicians and will have all the same Medicare options, including Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans. Your Medicare plan will not change unless you decide to change it. The MCO will work directly with Medicare providers to coordinate your services. Questions about Medicare can be directed to the Apprise insurance counseling program at 800-783-7067.

How will CHC affect the in-home care services I receive through PCA?

During the first six months of 2019, known as the "continuity of care period," you will automatically keep the same service coordination agency, which helps to manage a person's care. PCA provides service coordination and will work with all three managed-care organizations. If you wish to remain with PCA as your service coordination provider, the MCO of your choice can help you stay with PCA.

How do I enroll in CHC?

First, consult the enrollment packet you should have received in the mail. The packet explains CHC, provides information on the three MCO health plans and benefits, and provides enrollment information.

For more information or to select a plan, you can call the CHC Enrollment Center at 844-824-3655 (or TTY: 833-254-0690), weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., or go to the website enrollchc.com. You can enroll by phone, email or mail using the information and form included in your packet.

If you call the CHC Enrollment Center, a representative will ask you about your current providers and preferences. (It's a good idea to make a list of your providers before calling.)

Upon enrollment with your selected MCO, you will receive materials from the MCO in the mail, including an MCO participant identification card.

What happens if I don't select an MCO by the deadline?

Anyone eligible for CHC must select an MCO by the Nov. 15 deadline. If you do not enroll by the deadline, an MCO will be initially assigned to you through a process called auto-enrollment. You can change your MCO at any time, whether you selected it yourself or were auto-enrolled.

Questions about CHC, including about eligibility, can be directed to the toll-free CHC Participant Support Center at 1-833-735-4416.

Exceptional Care in the Comfort of Your Home

For Our Clients:

- Bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting
- Grocery shopping
- Light exercise
- Light housekeeping
- Meal preparation
- Accompany to medical appointments
- Changing Linens/Laundry
- Community Integration
- Respite
- Companion Services
- Assistance while families are
- out of town
- Holiday Helpers
- Additional services by request or per service plan

For Our Caregivers:

- Competitive Wages
- Medical/Dental/Life Benefits
- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Holiday pay at time & a half
- Paid travel time between clients
- Paid training
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Discounts on scrubs & protective footwear
- Reward & Recognition program
- Flexible schedules



Wellness & Home Safety Visits by Staff Nurse





FREE In-Home Services Assessment

Accepting: Medicaid, Private Pay, and most insurance plans



9350 Ashton Rd., Suite 102, Philadelphia, PA 19114 | 267.298.1325

November 2018

4

11

18

25

Lung and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

National Family Caregivers Month

SUNDAY

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS (Fall Back)

Town Hall on Eradicating Marginalization: Violence Prevention & Economic Sustainability. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Juvenile Justice Center. 267-581-3963.

Great Poets & the Cultures that Shaped

Them: Dante. 2 p.m. Parkway Central

Library. 215-686-5322.

MONDAY

5 Conversations with the Pennsylvania Ballet. Behind-the-scenes look at the ballet. Q&A with dancers. Phila. City Institute. 215-685-6621.

Medical Marijuana 101. 6 p.m. Fumo Family Library. 215-685-1758.

VETERANS DAY (observed)

Veterans Day Family Festival. Veterans talks, letter writing stations, familyfriendly activities. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. National Constitution Center. 215-409-6600. \$

TUESDAY

6

ELECTION DAY

King Day of Service 2019 Planning Workshop: Center City. 4 p.m. Urban Affairs Coalition. 215-851-1806.

Getting a Leg Up on Deep Vein Thrombosis & Varicose Veins. Noon. Medical Office Building at Jefferson. Register: 1-800-533-3669

Workshop: Supercharge Your Caregiving. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. PCA. Register: 215-765-9000, ext. 4391.

Town Hall Meeting: Bethel Burying

forgotten site & discuss its future. 6 p.m.

Ground. Learn the history of this

Logan Library. 215-685-9156.

Milestones

Events that end with a "\$" require an entrance fee or advance ticket purchase. Free events may request donations or sell items. Please call the number listed for pricing or other details.

Send your calendar items to:

ATTN: Milestones Editor PCA, 642 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19130 Phone: 215-765-9000, ext. 5081 Fax: 215-765-9066

Email: milestonesnews@pcaCares.org

Event submission deadline: 25th of the month for publication in month after next.

25th Philadelphia Marathon. Cheer on 30,000 runners at the start/finish line of this 26.2-mile race. 7 a.m. start. Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Philadelphiamarathon.com.

Philadelphia Reads W.E.B. Du Bois:

'The Sorrow Songs.' 2 p.m. Parkway

Central Library. 215-686-5322.

Comforting Fall Side Dishes. Chef Dolores demonstrates how to create crowd-pleasing sides. 6 p.m. Fumo Family Library. 215-685-1758.

26

19

12

Google Search. Learn the basics of search engines & internet research. 6 p.m. Bustleton Library. Register: 215-685-0472. 2

20

Rittenhouse Square Holiday Park Lighting. 5 p.m. Rittenhouse Square. 267-586-5675.

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

and the

SATURDAY

WEDNESDAY	1 Legal & Financial Planning: A Caregiver Seminar. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association. 5-7:30 p.m. St. John Neumann Center. Register: 215-698-5656.	2 Healthy Cooking Workshop. 2 p.m. Lucien Blackwell West Phila. Library. Register: 267-658-4148.	Lutheran Settlement House Open House & Flea Market. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lutheran Settlement House Senior Center. 215-426-8610, ext. 1204. I am Here: Creative & Therapeutic Support for the Dementia Caregiver. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Drexel University, Center City Campus. Register: 800-666- 7737. \$
A CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR	A state of the sta		
Family Health Fair. 4 p.m. South Phila. Library. 215-685-1866. Great Poets & the Cultures that Shaped Them: Geoffrey Chaucer. 11 a.m. Park- way Central Library. 215-686-5322. More Space in Your Place. 2 p.m. Lovett Memorial Library. Register: 215- 386-2984.	8 Healthy Aging Program. Keep your mind & body fit as you age. 9:30 a.m. Jefferson College of Pharmacy. Register: 800-533-3669.	9 Opening Day at Dilworth Park Wintergarden & Rothman Orthopae- dics Ice Rink. Noon. Dilworth Park. 215-440-5500. Veterans Breakfast. 9-11 a.m. Center in the Park. Register: 215-848-7722.	LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day. 10 Various times & locations. Sponsored by Fairmount Park Conservancy & Phila. Parks & Rec. 215-607-3489, 215-683- 3689, Loveyourpark.org. Philadelphia Flute Quartet. Concert of newly discovered pieces. 2 p.m. Parkway Central Library. 215-686-5322.
	State of the state	A CONTRACTION	
WORLD DIABETES DAY 14 Bake Sale. 9-11 a.m. Center in the Park. 215-848-7722. Mystery of the Lost Battalion. Unravel a World War I mystery. 6:30-8 p.m. Historical Society of Pa. 215-732-6200. \$	Becoming U.S.: Food & Culture. 6:30-8 p.m. Parkway Central Library. 215-686-5322. \$ Chestnut Hill Hospital Presents 'Healthy Bones for Life.' 10 a.m. Center in the Park. 215-848-7722. Preventing Falls: Assessment, Safety & Management in Older Adults. 11 a.m. Ralston Center. Register: 215-386-2984.	16 2019 King Day of Service Planning Workshop: South Philadelphia. 2 p.m. South Phila. Library. 215-851-1806.	17 Food & Fun Fair. Celebrate Phila.'s history & vibrant food culture. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Historical Society of Pa. 215-732-6200. \$
The second se		CARLES AND	The Party and the second se
21 Fiber Craft Group. Enjoy crafting & conversation with fellow artists. 6:30 p.m. Blanche A. Nixon/Cobbs Creek Library. 215-685-1973. Joint Replacement Class. 2 p.m. Penn Medicine, University City. 215-662-8000.	THANKSGIVING22Thanksgiving Day Parade. 8:30 a.m. to noon. Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Also televised. 6abc.com.	23 Opening Day at Blue Cross River Rink Winterfest. 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Great Plaza at Penn's Landing. 215-922- 2386.215-763-8100. \$ Opening Day of Macy's Light Show & Wanamaker Organ Concert. 10 a.m. Macy's Center City. 215-241-9000.	24 Saturday Crafternoons. An afternoon of basic instruction, idea sharing & good company. All experience levels welcome. 2 p.m. Fox Chase Library. 215-685-0547.
28 Nutrition During Cancer Treatment. Noon. Cancer Support and Welcome Center. Register: 215-955-1800.	29 Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's: Early Detection Matters. 11 am to 12:30 p.m. Ralston Center. Register: 215-386-2984.	30 Final day to redeem 2018 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program produce vouchers. (Note: Vouchers are no longer available.) Redemption infor- mation: 215-765-9040.	

Millenials

• continued from page 4

Crosley connected with Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) several years after Roberts' diagnosis. PCA assessors evaluated his mother's level of care needs and eligibility for services. A PCA service coordinator arranged for Roberts to have four hours of personal care weekday afternoons. Crosley also hired personal care aides privately to help with his mom's morning and weekend care. Altogether, he was paying nearly \$3,000 a month for his mother's home care and medical costs that were not covered by insurance. He worked three part-time jobs to make ends meet. His fiancée, now wife, Seanna, worked out of town but helped whenever she could.

Financial burden

The burden of work and financial obligations often compound the stress of millennial caregivers. A recent AARP Public Policy Institute report, "Millennials: The Emerging Generation of Family Caregivers," found that "73 percent of millennial caregivers are employed, more than any other generation of

caregivers and ... they spend an average of 21 hours a week caring for loved ones - the equivalent of a part-time job. About one-fifth of millennial caregivers devote 40 hours a week or more to such service, which amounts to a full-time job."

Crosley's jobs included working for the Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections as a building inspector, and as a pizza delivery man. He also operated his own rug-cleaning business. Each job gave him the flexibility to check in on his mom and attend to the crises that frequently occurred. "I had to come home almost every day to 'put out fires,' like if she was fighting with her aide or wandered outside with the dog and was trying to give the dog away," he said.

Typically, the caregiver's relationship to the care recipient will determine how the caregiver responds to caregiving and the stress it brings, according to Fredericka E. Waugh, associate director of diversity and inclusion for the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter. For Crosley, taking on the responsibility of caring for his mother was something he did lovingly. "She worked and sacrificed so much for me when I was growing up," he

said. "Becoming a caregiver at 32 was not how my life was supposed to go, but I did what it took. The experience taught me empathy; it taught me patience."

Difficult choices

In January, after seven years of being an inhome caregiver, Crosley placed his mother in an assisted living facility that also provided dementia care. She had forgotten how to eat and had become increasingly resistant and belligerent to her caregivers. Her wandering had increased, despite the extensive physical barriers Crosley had put up at home and the fact that she was never alone there. At one point, after she had escaped and police had found her, she was dehydrated and had to be hospitalized. Crosley stayed in the hospital with her.

He outfitted Roberts' room at the assisted living facility with furniture from home to ease her transition, but she did not adjust well, he said. She was temporarily placed in the psychiatric unit of another local hospital, where she was heavily medicated. Following that hospitalization, she returned to the assisted living facility. "But she no longer had that spark of my mom," Crosley said. "She just shut down and died."

Roberts passed away in March. "I wish things could have been different," he said. "I wish she did not get sick. I did everything I possibly could and that was a heck of a lot, but I still wish I could have done more."

Croslev is now in graduate school studying labor relations. He and Seanna, whom he married in 2017, have established the DMR Foundation in memory of his mother. The foundation's goal is to raise enough money to fund eight hours of caregiving a week for one caregiver each year. A portion of the funds raised through a golf tournament and other endeavors also will help fund Alzheimer's research.

As someone who has been there, Croslev hopes to provide advice and support to other Alzheimer's caregivers through his local Alzheimer's Association chapter. "I know what it is to walk down this path," he said. "It is not for the faint of heart."

Marcia Z. Siegal is public relations manager for Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA).

FUNERALS COST MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK ... Today, the average cost of a funeral is over \$8,500*

Help protect your loved ones with Colonial Penn's **AFFORDABLE Life Insurance!**

ACCEPTANCE is Guaranteed – If you're age 50 to 85** you don't have to answer a single health question or take a medical exam – you can't be turned down because of your health. This is made possible by a two year limited benefit period.

RATE Can NEVER Increase - Coverage comes with a LOCKED IN rate -100% guaranteed not to go up for ANY reason.

BENEFIT will NEVER decrease because of your age or health.

PROTECTION lasts a lifetime as long as you pay your premiums when due.

For Faster Service Call Toll Free Today 1.800.852.2600

Visit our website at: www.colonialpenn.com

NFDA 2015, General Price List Survey. * Age limits vary. Plan may vary by state and age. Contact us for details on rates, benefits, limitations and exclusions. Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company is not licensed in and does not solicit business in the state of New York. Residents of New York will receive information from Bankers Conseco Life Insurance Company, Jericho, NY. An insurance agent may contact you. Group Policy Form No 12-82-043, Individual Policy Form Series 23-82-045 or 15-82-020. Individual Policy Form Series 12-82-045 or 15-82-020.



www.colonialpenn.com

Show your loved ones how much you care, even after you are gone. Contact Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company today! Alex Trebek – *Compensated Endorser*



Please send me FREE INFO Penn's Guaranteed Acce Insurance and a FREE GI Penn sales representative on number below.	ptance Whole Life FT. I understand a Colonial
Or return this form to: Colonial Penn Life Insurance Co 399 Market Street, Philadelphia, I NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY EMPHONE EMPHONE EMPHONE EMPHONE EMPHONE MALE DATE OF BIRTH	1AIL

Caregiving

The soothing powers of oatmeal

By Sally Friedman

I recently was given a recipe for a hearty meatloaf that included a half-cup of oatmeal among its ingredients. I realized that I hadn't had oatmeal in the house for years, so off I went to get some.

The moment my hands reached for it on

the supermarket shelf, a whole rush of feelings almost overcame me. That familiar carton of Quaker oats carried me right back to my mother's apartment in a Philadelphia high-rise.

I'd almost forgotten oatmeal's place in my life - and hers - until that moment. Suddenly, 12 years vanished, and I was back in Mom's apartment, watching helplessly as a marauder called lymphoma changed everything. Mom

had faced it a few years earlier, when she had seemed to conquer it. And then it was back.

She was an amazing little warrior. But this time, my tiny, 97-year-old mother was clearly losing the battle. Most of her hours were spent in her yellow and white bedroom, with occasional friends stopping by for short visits. My sister and I were the monitors who determined whether Mom could even handle those well-meaning visits.

Our caregiving was intense, painful and fraught with tension. But it also was supplemented by the "angels," as we called them, of The Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia's hospice team. Could we have done that caring without them? Probably not.

These angels offered not just physical support, but emotional support as well. We became a caregiving team, a kind of support group for Mom - and in unexpected ways, for one another.

When you spend so much intense time with anyone, connections build. It's easier felt than explained.

One of the problems, as the wonderful doctor who had cared for Mom had correctly predicted, was her total lack of appetite. Nothing appealed to her, including foods that she had once loved - soft-boiled eggs, chicken soup and Jell-O.

I remember how Mom once had gotten me through a childhood food rebellion during which I subsisted on saltines and strawberry jelly. She struggled to tempt me with other foods, but I stubbornly refused. One day, I'd tried to offer the Breyer's vanilla ice cream, which she had loved all her life, then a small dish of mashed potatoes and even just a quarter-slice of bread - and she had refused them all. I went into her bathroom and cried.

And when I composed myself, and did one more search of Mom's kitchen cabinets, I spotted it: that familiar carton of oatmeal that alwavs had been in our home when I was a child. It was in my home when I had children and was kept in this very kitchen, perhaps, just in case a great-grandchild came to visit on a cold winter day.

Such hope resided in that simple box. This time, I didn't ask. I just went to the stove and began making

one of life's simplest pleasures, ignoring the microwave option. No, it had to be oatmeal bubbling on the burner.

I looked for the nicest bowl I could find in this kitchen, where such niceties were no longer considered very important. I spotted a lovely, little white bowl with flowers around the rim, a relic from my old home.

I picked up that bowl and held it close it to my heart. Fond memories surfaced of a steamy kitchen on a wintry day, and of Mom's loving gesture: a sprinkle of cinnamon went into that oatmeal along with some sugar.

It seemed centuries ago - and yesterday. On that morning, this one with medicines

lined up like sentries, I pulled up a chair close to the hospital bed my mother now occupied.

"How about some oatmeal?" I asked, trying so hard for nonchalance.

Those weary half-closed eyes opened wider, and a smile momentarily lit up my mother's face. "Yes," she said.

As the rest of the world outside this room turned, a daughter fed her dying mother spoonfuls of warm oatmeal - slowly, painstakingly and lovingly - until the bowl was almost empty.

"Delicious," Mom said. It was the last word I ever heard my mother say, and the last food she ever ate.

Sally Friedman has written for the New York Times and other publications.



Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) offers

Delicious meals delivered to your home

tasty, nutritious options for when you can't prepare your own meals

- · Quality: home-style meals designed with fresh ingredients by a licensed dietitian
- A personal touch: deliveries you can count on by our friendly, dedicated drivers
- · Affordability: low-cost or no-cost service, if you qualify
- Expertise: 45 years of experience caring for your neighbors
- Reliability: the local resource trusted by thousands of older Philadelphians

Call the PCA Helpline: 215-765-9040 www.pcaCares.org





Dementia

• continued from page 1

fluid intelligence declines and this decline can get in the way with making decisions, but not with the kind of severity seen in a person with dementia.

Normal aging means being forgetful at times. "Everyone is forgetful," said McKay. "Normal aging is forgetting to send an email but remembering it later or recalling it when it's mentioned." Factors such as stressors and diet can impact memory and mental "sharpness," or acuity, which includes focus, concentration and understanding.

The terms "dementia" and "Alzheimer's" are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same. Dementia is a term that describes a syndrome caused by any number of different diseases, most commonly Alzheimer's disease.

Dementia indicates a decline in the ability to display cognitive behaviors, which can include memory, language, attention, concentration, multi-tasking, problem solving and visual function. "In someone with dementia, at least two of these cognitive abilities are impaired to the point that they are getting in the way of doing daily tasks," he said. That's a serious concern, well beyond walking into a room and forgetting why you came in, then remembering it a few minutes later.

"People misplace things, but they are usually able to trace their steps backwards to find them," McKay said. "Someone with dementia would put things in unusual places, such as leaving their car keys in the refrigerator."

Signs of a cognitive decline that might be indicative of dementia can include a senior asking repetitious questions or telling the same story over and over again in the same conversation without providing new information. Difficulty identifying the day of the week, managing money or medicines, or cooking are also signs of a cognitive decline. "Dementia is not being able to retain adequate short-term memory," McKay said. "Dementia is like hearing the information anew each time."

Dementia

Dementia is not just occasional forgetfulness or a "senior moment." It is disabling memory loss, as well as loss of cognitive function, according to Karlawish. "Mild memory loss that takes a person longer to get through daily activities is not dementia," he said. "Someone with dementia will not perform well on memory tests but will also leave pots on the stove."



Dementia is not occasional forgetfulness or a normal part of aging. It is a disabling condition that should be diagnosed by a doctor.

It's important to note that dementia is not a sudden change in memory or ability. "If someone has experienced noticeable cognitive changes that are interfering with daily life over the last several days or even a few weeks, that's not dementia," Karlawish said. "That's a medical emergency."

There are several medical conditions that may mimic dementia. Complaints about memory being a problem and lack of initiative are reported in people with both dementia and depression. Certain medications and urinary tract infections can also cause behavioral or cognitive changes that resemble dementia.

Someone with dementia has typically experienced at least six months of decline in cognitive ability to the point that it interferes with usual tasks, according to Karlawish. These tasks can include managing money, cooking a meal, finding their way around, or using a TV remote control, assuming the person used to perform these tasks without a problem. "Someone with dementia won't bake anymore, or they tried to bake and it wasn't as good as before," Karlawish said. "They keep on having trouble using their computer, but they were fine before. They struggle to find their way around. These are signs that suggest dementia."

Drastic changes in a person's mood or personality over time may also signal dementia. "Your personality doesn't really change over time," McKay said. "It's a tell-tale sign when someone has a favorite hobby, and they just regress from that. Your personality is set. When someone becomes aggressive, overly emotional or 'just different,' it's probably time to see a doctor."

Causes

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. It is called a "neurodegenerative disease," meaning that neurons, the cells in the brain, are dying. Other neurodegenerative diseases include lewy body dementia and Parkinson's disease; the latter starts out as a movement disorder but can develop into dementia. Vascular disease can cause vascular dementia, in which the brain is damaged from impaired blood flow.

Traumatic brain injury, which results from an impact to the head that disrupts normal brain function, also can lead to dementia. "It may be something that only happens once, then that person is really impacted by it for the rest of their life," McKay said. Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which results from continuous trauma to the brain, is another cause of dementia. "We're seeing it more and more with former athletes, like football players, who have repeated concussions and damage to the brain," McKay said of CTE.

Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) is a fairly uncommon form of dementia, according to Karlawish. In FTD, the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain — the areas associated with personality, behavior and language — shrink or atrophy, causing dramatic changes in behavior. This disease often occurs in people 40-45, much younger than Alzheimer's is typically diagnosed, according to the Mayo Clinic.

There are a host of causes for dementia, beyond those mentioned here. According to Karlawish, a good clinician can sort it out. "If you are concerned about yourself or someone else, start with your general practitioner," he said. "It may result in correction of a medical problem or referral to a specialist." Karlawish recommends that people who have a memory problem go to the doctor with someone who knows them well, such as an adult child, close friend or partner. "This person can help to add information about how the person is doing," he said.

Alzheimer's disease

Alzheimer's disease accounts for about 60 percent of dementia cases, according to the Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's is different from other types of dementia. "The disease progression is very subtle over stages," McKay said. "It's a very slow and steady decline over an eight- to 10-year life span of the disease. It's characteristic to have memory loss as its primary and first-recognized symptom."

There is no cure for Alzheimer's. Fear of the disease and its effects may contribute to a delay in seeking diagnosis. "We have drugs that can treat the symptoms," Karlawish said. "Putting a name on the problem is the first step towards making sense of it and dealing with it. An early diagnosis is important because the patient is suffering." Someone with Alzheimer's is at risk of having an automobile accident, getting lost in a familiar area, becoming dehydrated from forgetting to drink water, or becoming a victim of a scam or crime. "While there is no cure for Alzheimer's, there are other causes of dementia that can be treated," McKay said. "It's important to not be afraid. I urge people not to be despondent. There is help out there."

The Alzheimer's Association Helpline is staffed by trained clinicians 24/7, 365 days a week, at alz.org or 800-272-3900. "We're here to provide support," McKay said. The helpline refers callers to clinicians, support groups and legal and financial experts. The helpline can also provide information and locations for memory cafés - organized gatherings where people with memory loss and their care companions come together to make new friendships and support one another. "It's a one-stop-shop for up-to-date resources and information," McKay said. "At the core of what we do is to help and support people within the community. We don't want people hiding in the shadows. Life is not over with dementia."

LibertyResources

The Power of Choice. Your Home Care, Your Way

"I can enjoy the luxury of living in the community with access to care whenever I need it." -Ricardo

High Quality Home and Personal Care *Liberty Resources Home Choices brings the Power of Choice to you, enhancing your health and promoting your independence. The Power of Choice to select a friend, family member, or one of our attendants to provide you with the care you want.*

It's your home care, your way.

Call 215-634-2000 ext. 617 or visit us on our website www.homechoices.org for more information. Proud partner of: Mobility for Everyone

-Durable Medical Equipment -Home Modifications -Scooters

> Call 267-765-1530 for more information

Resources for seniors raising children

If you are a senior raising your grandchild or other young family member, the following programs and services may be able to help you.

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging's Caregiver Support Program (CSP) provides financial reimbursement and connection to resources for seniors raising young relatives or providing care to an elder. (See information on pages 1 and 16.) To apply, call the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040 or go to pcaCares.org/ caregivers.

Grands As Parents Inc. (GAP) provides information and referral for legal, housing, food and clothing resources; a grandparent support group; advice on accessing health and mental health services for children; and educational and cultural trips for children. For more information, go to 2227 N. Broad St., call 215-236-5848 or email grandsasparents1@gapsnow.org.

Grand Central Inc., Philadelphia's kinship care resource center, brings together agencies, family members and community leaders to serve those caring for others' children. For more information, go to 1211 Chestnut St., Ste. 200; call 215-557-1554; or email grandcentralinc@msn.com.

SOWN GrandFamily Resource Center provides crisis intervention, support groups, counseling, information and referral, parenting education, health and fitness programs, advocacy, and opportunities to mentor other grandparent caregivers. For more information, call 215-487-3000, email info@ sown.org or visit sown.org.

Temple University College of Education Family Friends program serves eligible kinship caregiving households and families with special needs citywide with in-home and community visits, mentoring, resources and information, and free or low-cost, chaperoned respite trips for enrolled families. For more information, call 215-204-0266.

Senior caregivers

continued from page 1

Roberts, whose grandchildren and greatgrandchildren call her "G" or "G-G." "I've gotten a whole lot of satisfaction."

She also is getting help through a Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) program that supports grandparents and other older relative caregivers. PCA's Caregiver Support Program (CSP) provides assistance to people 55-plus who are caring for a relative under 18 who is not their biological child. The program helps older caregivers navigate educational, counseling, legal and other services to help them care for a child. In addition, it provides financial reimbursement for services such as day care or caregiver respite, tutoring, extracurricular activities, school supplies, counseling on benefits and entitlements for which caregivers and children may qualify, and caregiver education and training. (For more information see box above right.)

With funds from CSP, Roberts is able to access emotional support and help paying for child-rearing expenses. CSP pays for her to participate in a weekly telephone support group for older caregivers offered through SOWN.

Roberts has taken part in the support group for years and said it has been invaluable. "It's so nice to get on the phone and talk and reach out this way," she said. "We talk about the children, what the problems are... No matter what concerns people have, other people have ideas and suggestions."

She also receives help through CSP to pay for Hydir's school supplies and his weekly music lessons at Settlement Music School, where he studies percussion.

Roberts helps Hydir with his homework and attends parent-teacher conferences and other events at his school. Nonetheless, she said, "the main thing Hydir gets from me is love and attention."

She encourages him to confide in her. "Every morning I tell him, 'Have a good day,' and every day when he comes home, I ask him 'How was your day?'" Roberts said. "I tell Hydir there's nothing that's too bad or too good that we can't talk about it."

Hydir said that he and "G" have a strong, unbreakable bond. No matter what the issue, "she knows all the answers and is always coolheaded," Hydir said.

Now that he's a teen, Hydir is able to reciprocate Roberts' care by helping his great-

Caregiver support program provides resources, assistance

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) supports adults who are caring for others. The Caregiver Support Program helps income-eligible caregivers who provide routine care for a senior or child. To qualify, caregivers must be 18-plus and care for a functionally impaired adult 60-plus, 55-plus and care for someone 19-59 with a disability or dementia, or 55-plus and care for a child who is a relative. (See article on this page.)

Services and supports include:

- Care management including evaluation, a support plan and connection to services
- Reimbursement for caregiving services and supplies, including home modifications, personal or adult day care, and counseling. Support is provided based on household income.
- Caregiver education and training
- Information and referral to access caregiving services and supports

For more information about any of PCA's programs to support caregivers, call the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040 or go to pcaCares.org/caregivers.

grandmother. "When he was a little boy, I took him to Sunday school," Roberts said. "Now he takes me to church. I use a walker ... He'll walk with me, go to be with his friends at Sunday school, and then come get me to walk me home. He'll make breakfast and bring it upstairs to me. Other times, he'll say, 'G, I'm going to the store; do you want anything?' Or if he buys himself a water ice, he'll bring one home for me too. He's always looking out for me."

Roberts has been the mainstay of her family since she was widowed at 33. She came to Philadelphia from Charleston, South Carolina, with five children to be near her sister and brother, who lived here. "I made a new life and did what I had to do," she said. She worked for a time as a nursing assistant at a residential facility for people with disabilities.

After raising many of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Roberts has created a family that now serves as a strong support system for her. One or more of the adult children she raised check in each morning and evening on her and Hydir. They help provide meals, assist with shopping and take Hydir on outings with relatives his age. Granddaughter Kiki helps Hydir with his math homework and attends his school events when G is unable to.

All the family's generations still seek Roberts' advice on matters big and small. "I just love them all," Roberts said of her 70 living descendants, including five children, 13 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She expected a large gathering at her North

Philadelphia home for Thanksgiving. Many family members were slated to bring dishes they made according to family traditions she has passed on, like her potato salad and candied yams and the macaroni and cheese dish Roberts learned to make from her mother.

"I've raised so many kids," Roberts said. She offers this perspective to a new grandparent, great-grandparent or other older relative who is taking on raising a child: "If I can do it, you can do it. Every day is not going to be sunny, but together, all the good days far outweigh the hard ones. We're all in this for the same reason – so we can help these children with what they need."

Marcia Z. Siegal is public relations manager for Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA).

Crossword puzzle solution (See page 19 for clues.)



MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Let's meet to talk about your Medicare choices

You're invited to a FREE informational meeting right in your community. Get the answers you need to feel confident about your Medicare choices. Learn how one Cigna-HealthSpring Medicare Advantage plan offers all the coverage of Original Medicare + prescription drug coverage + added benefits such as:

- > \$0 monthly premium
- > \$0 primary doctor copay

We look forward to meeting you at an upcoming meeting.

Nov. 8 at 10 a.m.	Nov. 8 at 12 p.m.
Tiffany Diner	West Oak Lane Library
9010 Roosevelt Blvd	2000 E Washington Ln
Philadelphia, PA 19115	Philadelphia, PA 19138
Nov. 8 at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.	Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.
Sheraton Four Points Hotel NE	Four Seasons Diner
9461 Roosevelt Blvd	2811 Cotman Ave

> Dental services*

YOU

> Hearing services

LEARN ABOUT THE ALL-IN-ONE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN.

Come to a FREE, no-obligation informational meeting or schedule an in-home visit. For upcoming event information:

Call 1-866-615-7269 (TTY 711)

8 a.m. - 8 p.m., 7 days a week

CignaHealthSpring.com

Medicare annual enrollment ends on Dec. 7.

Cigna HealthSpring

Together, all the way."

All Cigna products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation. The Cigna name, logos, and other Cigna marks are owned by Cigna Intellectual Property, Inc. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings call 1-866-615-7269 (TTY 711). *Select benefits may not be available in all service areas without a monthly premium or without an additional monthly premium. Some plans may include these benefits under the monthly premium. Cigna-HealthSpring complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age disability or sex. Cigna-HealthSpring cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no dicrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo. English: ATTENTION: If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge are available to you. Call 1-888-284-0268 (TTY 711). Spanish: ATENCION: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-284-0268 (TTY 711). Chinese: 注意:如果您使用繁體中文,您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-888-284-0268 (TTY 711). You must reside in the plan service area. Available in certain counties of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee. Cigna-HealthSpring is contracted with Medicare for PDP plans, HMO and PPO plans in select states, and with select State Medicaid programs. Enrollment in Cigna-HealthSpring depends on contract renewal. © 2018 Cigna 922705

Stay safe, secure and well-cared-for with PCA.

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging has more than 40 years of experience helping seniors get the care they need to stay in their own homes.

For service coordination you can rely on, choose PCA.

215-765-9040 www.pcaCares.org

Now also serving Bucks & Montgomery counties!







Journey's Way isn't just part of the community; it is the community

By Michael Hanisco

Karen Rouse wants people to think a little differently about how they view senior community centers. After serving in various roles at centers across the city for three decades, she is now the director at Journey's Way, a senior center serving adults 55-plus at the corner of Rector and Pechin streets in Roxborough.

"The senior center is the community; it's not a separate part just for older people," Rouse said.

It's that attitude that has allowed her to develop partnerships with a wide array of community members during her time at Journey's Way, something she sees as a point of pride for the center.

"We do a lot of intergenerational programming," she said. "We've developed partnerships with nursing schools and with a high school in the neighborhood; we work with churches, the art center, and the weaving guild. I'm going to be developing some dance programs with

Merge Studio. We do a lot of work bringing the community in and also offering our build-ing so that they can use it."

Rouse explained that Journey's Way opens its doors to a number of organizations that are in need of meeting space. The local historical society, the Soroptomists — a women's volunteer and empowerment group — and even the Philadelphia police have used the building for regular meetings.

Rouse credits the converted church that houses Journey's Way as a major asset in courting community relationships. The spacious accommodations offer an advantage over the much smaller space five blocks away that housed the center until a move in 2009.

"Everything was clumped together in two or



Michael Hanisco

Signs outside of Journey's Way, a senior center in Roxborough, welcome seniors for connecting, learning and growing.

three little rooms," Rouse said.

The newer center features two stories and contains rooms of various sizes, offering enough space for large gatherings and more intimate sessions to occur simultaneously.

"The building has really helped Journey's Way develop into a center that can really provide something for everybody," Rouse said. "It has enabled us to handle different kinds of programming. We're able to accommodate a wide range of interests and activity levels."

On a recent Monday, the center was a hub of activity, hosting a meditation class downstairs while a dozen seniors participated in a workout on the second level. Down the hall through a breezeway on the first floor, others

• continued on page 19

Journey's Way

• continued from page 18

enjoyed a light breakfast in a large dining area that features a state-of-the-art kitchen.

That activity level is typical, according to Rouse

"I think you feel energy when you walk in here," she said. However, she is quick to point out that it's not an exclusionary energy based on one's level of physical activity.

"We have folks that use a walker; we have folks that are in their 90s. We have folks that have some physical challenges. We offer something for everyone."

Susie Lada exudes the energy that Rouse spoke about. The spry and energetic former kindergarten teacher joined Journey's Way back when it existed at its previous location. The difference in programing between then and now is night and day, she said.

Now there aren't enough hours in the day to fit in all of her favorite activities. She participates in Silver Sneakers, tai chi, line dancing and the center's "News and Views" discussion group, among other activities. She also volunteers at the center, offering a helping hand to the small staff.

"The center changed my life," Lada said during a rare break in her morning routine. "I got bored of TV and reading at home. Most of the friends that I have now, I've met through Journey's Way."

Looking up for a moment from her morning crossword puzzle, Patricia Katz explained that she comes to Journey's Way mainly "to play." She can no longer swim, which was her

favorite form of exercise, due to health complications. She visits Journey's Way almost daily, interacting with other members and participating in activities such as arts and crafts classes and games. Seated in front of a jigsaw puzzle that depicts a mouse running up a fully-functioning clock — a project that took her months to complete - Katz spoke highly of the center, its members, and the unique programming that makes members welcome, no matter their level of physical activity. Though she now only cooks at home on special occasions, she is particularly fond of the healthy cooking demonstrations that are a part of the regular programming at Journey's Way.

In explaining why the concept of community is so important to the center's mission, Rouse alluded to its name. "Journey's Way" was chosen to challenge outdated perceptions of senior centers and focus on the positive aspects of aging, she said.

"Aging is a pathway. Everyone is on a journey of lifelong possibilities," Rouse explained.

Journey's Way, located at 403 Rector Street in Northwest Philadelphia, is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call 215-487-1750 or go to intercommunityaction.org/aging-services.

Michael Hanisco is multimedia communications specialist at Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA).

Milestones wants to hear from YOU!

We welcome your story ideas, feedback and suggestions. (Story-specific comments or questions will be forwarded to the writer.) Submissions of letters or articles for publication must be signed and dated and include your address and phone number. Submission constitutes permission to edit and publish in any form or medium.



Send ideas, comments & submissions to: Attn: Milestones Editor PCA, 642 N. Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19130 Email: milestonesnews@pcaCares.org

PCA reserves the right to not publish any submission; receipt may not be acknowledged; and submissions will not be returned.

Crossword

Independence

Across

1	Conflicts	41	A singing
5	Wanders		Washington
10	Stunner	43	Aural
14	Coup d'	44	Wedding site
15	Bay	46	Patriots
16	Aka Charles	48	Doubly nasty
	Lamb	50	Carter's catch
17	Silkworm	51	Obscure
18	Gaze	53	Dependence
19	NC cape	58	Joke response
20	Hanoverian	61	Bang-up
	heavy in		holiday
	America	65	Not under
22	Chichi's alert	66	Love Story star
23	Dictum	67	Building bear
24	Or follower	68	Meathead
26	Silent star	69	Pilot Balbo
30	Feast	70	Church area
34	10 Down, e.g.	71	Love god
39	Met's rival	72	Pro-
40	Fall color		consumerite

ite stv tcher ce nse star eam 0 ea

73 Dirk

Down

1 Fortnight units 2 Courtvards 3 Weather warning 4 Bachelors 5 Succeed 6 Aware 7 Winglike 8 Blend 9 Toughens 10 1776 player 11 Fridge item 12 Ananias 13 Vetch, e.g. 21 Mongolian wasteland 25 Hydro resort, e.g. 27 Tack on 28 Check

29 Indochinese

32 Seed envelope

33 Gooden and

Erving

region

31 Ms. Kett

47 Holv Roman emperor 49 Connect anew

Solution The solution can be

found on page 16.

35 Hold swav

36 This: Sp.

45 Arikara

37 Flags

34 Kiddie conveyor

38 Memorable mime

42 Broadway beauty

- 52 ____ Arenas, Chile
- 54 Archaeologist's site
- 55 Citylike
- 56 Cudgel
- 57 Babe Ruth's number
 - 58 Edge
 - 59 Maintain
 - 60 Sandwich
 - 62 Conduct
 - 63 Dink Stover's
- school 64 Doña played by
 - Signoret

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21							22			
23								24		25				
				26	27	28	29		30			31	32	33
34	35	36	37					38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46				47				
48					49		50							
	1		51			52				53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60			61		62	63	64					
65					66						67			
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

Join the plan where your health is our focus.

New to Medicare? Unhappy with your current coverage? Experience the Health Partners Medicare difference!

We're the Medicare solution from Health Partners Plans, the health care company that has been improving the health of Pennsylvanians for more than 30 years. Make the right choice for your health and gain peace of mind with plans that offer:

- Plan premiums as low as \$0
- Low-cost prescription drug and dental coverage options
- Vision, hearing and fitness benefits, with no copays
- Friendly customer service around the clock, 365 days a year
- All the protection of Original Medicare, plus extra benefits

Find out more about how we can help keep you healthy. Call **1-844-259-3845 (TTY 711)** 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Visit HPPMedicare.com

Health Partners Medicare is an HMO plan with Medicare and Pennsylvania State Medicaid program contracts. Enrollment in Health Partners Medicare depends on contract renewal. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, premiums and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. Health Partners Medicare complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-866-901-8000 (TTY: 711).

注意:如果您使用繁體中文,您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-866-901-8000 (TTY: 711)。

H9207_HPM-2641-18 Accepted 9/17

Your health. Our focus.

Health Partners Plans