



2016 Grant Finalist Summary
Alzheimer's Community Care, Inc.
Knowledge is Power: Dementia-Specific Care Training

The Organization

Alzheimer's Community Care, Inc. (ACC) is the only organization in South Florida providing comprehensive, community-based services for Alzheimer's disease and related neurocognitive disorders (ADRD) patients and caregivers and is a leader in promoting dignity, safety and well being through specialized care for all families living with ADRD. This is the essence of the unique educational experience presented through this project. Drawing upon 19 years of experience providing community-based dementia-specific care in Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Alzheimer's Community Care, Inc (ACC) is uniquely positioned to lead this initiative to train our community's future nurses and healthcare professionals in dementia-specific care. The innovative model of community-based care highlighted in the curriculum received accreditation from The Joint Commission in 2013, the first of its kind in the United States. Its design is based on evidence-based findings demonstrating that care is most appropriately provided for Alzheimer's patients by his or her family in their own home.

The Program/Need

Providing dementia-specific education and clinical experiences for our future nurses is essential if we are to adequately meet the needs of our community's rapidly growing number of families affected by ADRD. An estimated 65,000 ADRD patients currently reside in Palm Beach County, with 70% cared for at home by family members. This project is the only one of its kind in Florida that promotes a community-based model of care focusing on the needs of both patients and family caregivers. Because the model is family-centered, its approach is appropriate for all families, regardless of ethnicity, culture or socio-economic status. Over the next 18 months, an estimated 200 nursing students will complete ACC's specialized training in dementia-specific care. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills essential to provide appropriate, patient-centered care in all clinical settings including the acute care hospital, skilled rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home health, adult day centers, outpatient surgical and physical rehabilitation, and physician and dental offices. The strength of this program lies in the collaborative relationships established by ACC and local schools of nursing. Partnering schools include Florida Atlantic University, Keiser University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Palm Beach State College and Indian River State College. ACC's professional staff – which includes Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants – reinforces classroom training during the practicum experience.

Why is this a high impact project?

This project responds to an urgent need for our future nurses to promote and practice an alternative health care delivery model that raises the bar for dementia-specific care for families living with Alzheimer's disease and related neurocognitive disorders (ADRD). Through this project, student nurses apply classroom instruction to real world experiences as they engage with patients and caregivers through a community-based practicum experience. The family-centered model of community-based care for patients with ADRD is part of a national movement that advocates for patients to "age in place," debunking the myth that nursing home placement is the best mode of care. Students learn that with proper supports, home-based care is not only possible, but is the best plan of care for these families. This project will change current trends by promoting a family-centered model of care that revolutionizes the manner in which families living with ADRD experience care.

How will Impact 100's money be used?

An Impact 100 grant will be used for salaries for two FTEs for 18 months (VP of Education and Quality Assurance and Community Health Educator). Contract Services/Professional Fees includes an 18-month long contract with consultants at University of South Florida and fees paid to The Joint Commission. Other program expenses include communications, copying, printing, postage and office supplies. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded a grant designating \$162,171 for this project. Funding from Impact 100 will fulfill ACC's commitment to provide no less than a 25% match for grant funding. In essence, the funds from Impact 100 will be leveraged by 162% by support received through HHS. Additional funding for this project is expected from private foundations, board contributions and service fees generated through ACC's Education Department.