



News & Notes

Spring 2018

March/April/May

"SCRC Names Glenn F. McConnell 2017 Respite Champion"

Executive Director, Janet B. Altman, presented Mr. McConnell, who was unable to attend the State House ceremony for Respite Awareness Day in February, with the award Thursday, March 22, 2018, in the College of Charleston Randolph Hall Boardroom.



"Regular, temporary breaks from care giving, aka respite, protect the emotional, mental, and physical health of the caregiver by giving them time to take care of themselves,"

says Altman. "One of the most practical ways we are able to support respite for family caregivers is through our respite voucher program. Once the caregiver receives the voucher, they will be reimbursed up to \$500 when they hire someone to provide care for their loved one while they take a short break. For example, a daughter was able to hire someone to stay with her mother while she took her own daughter for a college visit."

McConnell was named a Respite Champion for working to secure the first \$1 million of state respite voucher funds in 2012, when he was a state senator. He continued his work on respite services while he was lieutenant governor. Since then, McConnell has been a champion of respite for family caregivers of all ages, but especially for those who care for aging parents or spouses.

"Every day, people around the state are being selfless and serving as a free caregiver for a loved one with a mental or physical challenge - a child, a teenager, or an adult," says McConnell. "Often times this care giving comes at the expense of personal, emotional, mental, and physical health as well as an enjoyable quality of life. The voucher program provided by the South Carolina Respite Coalition allows caregivers to stay healthy by enabling them to do everyday activities, such as going to the doctor, while someone temporarily takes care of their loved ones. This voucher program is a helping hand that ensures loved ones get compassionate care at home instead of being institutionalized, which comes at a significant cost to the state of South Carolina. It's a win for everyone involved."

LIFESPAN RESPITE ACTIVITIES

Regional Councils at Work In the UpState & LowCountry



Councils met in March, April and May. Plans are coming together for a Respite Day on October 27 in Greenville. New marketing materials are being developed for the LowCountry Council. Members have expressed an interest in a postcard which acknowledges their participation in the council and can be distributed at health fairs and conferences where they encounter family caregivers. A Respite Survey was completed by council members in May and prompted good discussion about the purpose and function of the regional councils.

Respite Vouchers

- 106** vouchers were issued to Family Caregivers in
- 24** counties
- 4175** hours of respite were purchased
- 83%** of vouchers were awarded to first time applicants
- 5** examples of use of respite hours

Went deep sea fishing in Florida with my brother. Caught a 5 ft black tip shark!

Had dinner and went to a movie with my husband.

Got to attend my granddaughter's high school graduation.

Had time to go vote AND get my hair done afterwards.

Took a Memorial Day weekend trip to Atlanta. Had a wonderful time catching up with friends and family.

DDSN Family - Selected Respite Caregiver Training

111 New Respite Caregivers registered with us, completed Medicaid's required screening & training, and are now employed by family caregivers across the state

115 Previously Registered Respite Caregivers completed their annual renewal screening/training requirements

construction zone



As you travel the interstates, secondary roads, and city streets of South Carolina, I am certain you have driven through more than one construction zone. Road construction



takes time (lots of time) and requires many workers, doing a myriad of tasks.



The South Carolina Respite Coalition is working to construct a coordinated Lifespan Respite System in South Carolina. We are fortunate to have many "workers" who share our vision, support our mission, and work along with us. In March, April, and May, we worked with the following:

South Carolina
Respite
Coalition

South Carolina
Assistive Technology Program
CENTER FOR DISABILITY RESOURCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



alzheimer's
association



Coming This



June 2nd Parkinson's Moving Day on James Island

11th - 15th ED Vacation

12th UpState Respite Council

19th SCPDO Meeting at The ARC of SC
Lifespan Partners Meeting at LGOA

20th Presentation at Jewish Community Center

21st Alzheimer's Association Longest Day Event

25th Presentation at Leeza's Care Connection

28th AARP Breakfast at Lourie Center

July 9th Voucher Meeting at LGOA

10th Presentation to SC Faith Community Nurses Association

12th Lifespan Partners Meeting at LGOA

23rd UpState Respite Council in Greenville

24th DDSN Quarterly Respite Meeting

26th SCRC Board Meeting

27th Brain Injury Conference

August 3rd SC Faith Community Nurses Conference

9th Presentation for Memory Care Cafe

10th College of SW Annual Program for Field Educators

17th LowCountry Respite Council in North Charleston

25th NAMI Conference

TBD MSW Intern (Sawyer) begins field placement @ SCRC

Community-Based Respite Corner

Lifespan Respite is defined as "...a coordinated system of community-based respite services for family caregivers of children and adults."

Some parents don't make the connection between respite and sending their special needs child to summer camp. A week of camp is refreshing for both the camper and their family. This Spring, the SCRC has used State Respite Voucher Funds to provide 43 camp scholarships for a total of \$14,700, enabling family caregivers in Horry, Lexington, Greenville, Greenwood, Spartanburg, Charleston, Richland, and Lancaster counties to enjoy a week-long respite. Scholarships will primarily be used in June. This year we focused on one camp in the UpState, one in the Midlands, and one in the LowCountry. If you know of a special needs camping program that would benefit from scholarships, please call Janet at 803-935-5027 x5.





Charleston

SCRC Staff

Janet B. Altman, Executive Director
Allison Poole, Program Coordinator
Stephanie Sumner, Program Assistant
Joice Gouw, Program Coordinator
Tonya Tisdale, Program Assistant

South Carolina Respite Coalition | 803.935.5027



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