



## **SOUTH CAROLINA IS A LEADER!**

The Administration on Aging in Washington, D.C. awarded South Carolina its 4th Lifespan Respite Grant to continue building a system of respite for ALL ages. **It is a sign that South Carolina is leading the nation in its planning and advances in the area of respite.** The grant will be administered by the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, but for all age groups.

The Respite Coalition is very proud to have been educating and advocating for respite for all family caregivers since 1999. This helped set the stage for recent increases in funding for families caring for older adults. In 2009, South Carolina was one of the first 12 states to be awarded a "Lifespan Respite" grant by the Administration on Aging. We are one of the few states to receive every Lifespan Respite grant that has been offered.

**But none of it can be done without partnerships with all the state and non-profit organizations and business partners that serve family caregivers.** We rely on and are grateful to them for their support and advocacy!

## **MORE FUNDS SECURED FOR 2014-15**

In June, 2014 the legislature *approved another \$2 million for respite for family caregivers of elders!* These funds are also for elders (55+) who are caring for their adult children with disabilities and grandparents 55+ raising grandchildren under 18.

Please take time to communicate with your legislator about care giving and respite and **thank them for their support of this funding.**

**DON'T KNOW YOUR LEGISLATOR'S NAME?** call (803) 734-2010 for representative & 212-6700 for senator  
or <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>

## **RESPITE AWARENESS WEEK - BEFORE VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 9-14, 2015**

**"Family Care giving is an act of love"**

Please help us to increase Respite Awareness during the week before Valentine's Day.



This is a **VIRTUAL** event for the S.C. State legislature and the general public.

**Since most family caregivers and concerned citizens cannot come to the statehouse for a rally, we hope they will instead phone, write, or e-mail their representatives and senators during the week to**

- Thank them for the vouchers we had,
- Urge them to make the \$2 million State Respite for Elders a recurring line item in the S.C. aging budget, and
- Ask them to consider funding respite for other family caregivers of midlife individuals.

If you will do this, please contact Allison Poole at [allison@screspitecoalition.org](mailto:allison@screspitecoalition.org) or call her between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. weekdays: 803-935-5027 or 1-866-345-6786.

## **SCRC CLAIMS SOME CREDIT**

For 15 years the Respite Coalition has been quietly educating the public, counseling families and laying the groundwork that led Lt. Governor Glenn McConnell to focus on respite. Of course, he heard it clearly from family caregivers on his tours. And he knew the need while caring for his own mother.

But our work was influential too. In 2009 the Respite Coalition wrote the Lifespan Respite Grant

that resulted in South Carolina receiving one of the first 12 grants issued by the Administration on Aging. This grant has been managed by the Lt. Governor's office on Aging, and there is no doubt that this grant and the success of the Family Caregiver Support and Alzheimer's respite programs have brought us to this point.

***But nothing is guaranteed.*** These funds could disappear without Lt. Governor McConnell as a champion! As he assumes the responsibilities as the new Lt. Governor in January 2015, Henry McMaster, might be interested in stories about care giving and what respite means to family caregivers of all ages. Public officials only know what is important to their constituents if they hear from them.

### ***BECOME A MEMBER –***

***Your tax deductible gift would enable the Respite Coalition to continue educating people statewide and working to create a respite network in S.C. Ultimately, we want more respite, easily found by family caregivers of all ages, no matter for whom they provide care.***

Click on the heart at the website to donate online or mail your gift to P.O. Box 493, Cola., SC 29202.

### **SOME VOUCHERS STILL AVAILABLE**

SCRC still has a small amount of funds for family caregivers caring for elders and also for younger and midlife populations. We are handling applications as quickly as we can. We are also working closely with the Family Caregiver Support Programs to serve families in the best way possible.

Remember, respite is not only about getting care for the loved one, even if that is a huge need. That can be part of what happens while the family caregiver is gone, but respite is focused on the family caregiver having some of **their** needs met. **This is for the family caregiver to take a break,** not just for bills or to go to work. The focus is on those taking care of someone who can't be left for any length of time or overnight.

### **FAMILIES SERVED LAST YEAR**

From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 Lifespan Respite grant funding from the US Administration on Aging and state respite funds, through the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, enabled SCRC to provide 188 family caregivers with 9,272 hours of respite at an average cost of \$8.36 per hour. Ages of family caregivers ranged from 22 to 87 years and of care receivers ranged from 1 to 103.

SCRC vouchers are directed to families on waiting lists and those "falling through the cracks" for other respite programs, particularly midlife and younger populations.

### **RESPITE VOUCHER and WEBSITE NEWS**

Voucher eligibility information and application are at our website. Keep your eye on our website as we upgrade it. We welcome your feedback as we try to create a truly useful respite resource.

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

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