

ASN NEWSLETTER

**Alzheimer's Support Network
of South Central Massachusetts Inc.**

Vol. 22 No. 1 ISSUE : FALL 2010

Editor: Roger Lamontagne

President's Message

"25 YEARS OF SERVICE "

**Roger Lamontagne, LICSW, BCD
President
ASN Board of Directors**

When ASN's first president Ray Lataille began that first Alzheimer's Support Network Board of Directors Meeting in September of 1985, no one knew what would become of this new organization that was dedicated to service the local needs of families and caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

As ASN enters into its 25th year of service to south central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut, it is bittersweet to know that while understanding of the disease has grown and that treatment services have been developed; there continues to be ever more people being diagnosed and suffering from Alzheimer's.

Caregiver support services are needed more now than when ASN began. With more families affected today, there is greater need for health and social service professionals and former family caregivers to dedicate their talents to help those currently faced with the needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease or a related progressive dementia.

If you have time to volunteer, please contact ASN and see how you can make a difference now! Thanks for giving and for caring!—Roger

DID YOU KNOW?

- > ASN came into being 25 years ago when it was incorporated on September 10, 1985.**
- > ASN's official name is the Alzheimer's Support Network of South Central Massachusetts Inc.**
- > ASN is also known as ASN, Alzheimer's Support Network, and ASNSCM Inc.**
- > ASN has been an all-volunteer service organization since its beginning.**
- > ASN's initial Member Dues were only \$10 per year.**
- > ASN was the first to provide financial assistance with adult day health Respite Care for family caregivers of persons with dementia.**
- > ASN has continuously provided caregiver support groups for over 25 years.**

SILVER ALERT LAW Is Passed this Summer

On August 10th, Governor Patrick signed into law the Silver Alert Community Response System. The Silver Alert law will be used to help locate missing persons over 65 years of age who have a serious memory impairment. Using the state public safety system and the various media outlets, the Silver Alert system will go into action once a missing elder has been reported to be at health or safety risk. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs will participate in the development of regulations for the system along with public safety officials. Massachusetts is the 19th State to have a Silver Alert system.

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Appreciation to our ASN General Members for their continued support through their Membership Dues. For past members, Please renew your 2010 membership when you get your reminder in the mail . Thank you!

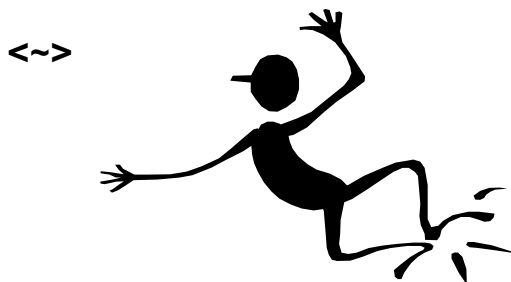
ACCORD ADULT DAY CENTER MOVES TO NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

ACCORD Adult Day Center, formerly of Dudley, has moved this summer to its newly renovated facility on 10 Cudworth Road in Webster.

ACCORD ADC is the contracted adult day health care provider for ASN's Community Respite Services Program. ACCORD ADC has developed a state-of-the-art program at its new location with facilities and services that provide high quality care and attention to clients.

ACCORD ADC has consistently received excellent ratings from client satisfactions surveys that ASN conducts on an annual basis for its Community Respite Services Program. With expanded facilities for enhanced services and treatment, the new ACCORD ADC program is expected to receive continued high marks from our respite clients and their families. Their website is: www.accorddaycenter.com

Congratulations to ACCORD Adult Day Center!



FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Family Caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's dementia can obtain support from either attending one of ASN's Alzheimer Caregiver Support Groups; participating in ASN's Community Respite Services Program; or using ASN's Email Helpline to direct their requests for information at **info@alzsupportnet.org**.

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EARLY ONSET ALZHEIMER'S NOW LISTED ON COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCES PROGRAM

Social Security Administration has included in 2010 early-onset Alzheimer's dementia among the list of diagnoses deemed automatically eligible for Social Security Disability status. SSA will fast track any SSDI application with a confirmed diagnosis of early-stage Alzheimer's disease. According to SSA, the full five-step application and appeal process currently averages 440 days. With the Compassionate Allowances Program, the fast track application process reduces the wait time considerably for individuals newly diagnosed.

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**ASN Website Address
Is
www.AlzSupportNet.org**

**Our Email Address is:
info@alzsupportnet.org**

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Free Medication Pill Boxes

ASN in collaboration with the Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences have available free Medication Pill Box for family caregivers. The pill box can be picked up at any ASN Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group Meeting or by asking for ASN Helpline extension #3100 at 800-286-6640.

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A Guide for a Better Ending Booklets Available

In collaboration with the Central MASS Partnership to Improve Care at the End of Life, ASN has available free copies of ***A Guide for a Better Ending: Conversations before the Crisis***. This booklet is very helpful for persons newly diagnosed in early stage Alzheimer's disease. The booklet includes useable forms of the Health Care Proxy and Personal Wishes Statement. Both English and Spanish versions (**Guia para un final major**) are available. Call 800-286-6640, ext 3100.

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CAREGIVER SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are caring for a parent, spouse, relative or friend who is 60 years or older, and you need assistance, The Caregiver Program of Tri-Valley Inc. has a Scholarship Fund which can provide relief.

**Call The Caregiver Program at
1-800-286-6640.**

Alzheimer's Support Network of
South Central Massachusetts Inc.
P. O. BOX 839
Southbridge MA 01550

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Caregiver Support Groups

Southbridge: 1st Tuesday of each Month
at 7:00pm, CR1, Mezzanine Level,
Harrington Memorial Hospital

Webster: 2nd Monday of each Month
at 6:15pm Meeting Room Floor G,
Webster Public Library

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### **ASN BOARD MEETINGS**

ASN Members are Welcome.

Call 508-949-6640, Ext.3100

for the next meeting date/time/location.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in being involved with

***Serving others, Writing articles, co-
leading a support group or educational
program?***

***Call Us at 508-949-6640, Extension 3100
to volunteer your talent.***