

RESOLUTION 044601

Proclaiming the month of November 2004 as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month in Cuyahoga County.

WHEREAS, November is an important month for the 4.5 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's disease and those who care for them. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan designated November National Alzheimer's Disease Month. Eighteen years later, President Bill Clinton named November National Family Caregivers Month. This month provides an opportunity to recognize improvements in education, research and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative, irreversible, neurological disease that attacks the brain and results in impaired memory, thinking, and behavior. It affects an estimated 4 million American adults (about 44,000 in Northeast Ohio), or one in three families. More than 100,000 people die of complications from Alzheimer's disease annually, making it the fourth leading cause of death among adults.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, which was first described by Alois Alzheimer, M.D. in 1906, knows no social or economic boundaries. Many, but not all, studies indicate that the disease affects more women than men, even after being adjusted for age. Most people are affected after the age of 65. About half of those age 85 and older will have it. However, Alzheimer's disease also strikes many people in their 40's and 50's. The youngest documented case is that of a 28-year-old individual.

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association's mission is to "stand by all Northeast Ohioans touched by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, by advancing research and ensuring people have the information, care, and support needed to live life as fully as possible throughout the journey." The Chapter's vision is "Creating a world without Alzheimer's disease, while promoting the best possible quality of life for individuals and their families".

AND WHEREAS, the Cleveland Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association annually serves thousands touched by the disease. In May the Chapter committed to a fundraising campaign to bring eight researchers to Cleveland in 2005 as part of "Finding a Cure in Cleveland," a collaborative effort with Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals and the Cleveland Clinic aimed at creating a world without Alzheimer's disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, does hereby proclaim the month of November 2004 as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month in Cuyahoga County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Susan E. Axelrod, Director, Department of Senior & Adult Services.

On Motion of Commissioner Dimora, seconded by Commissioner McCormack, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Dimora, McCormack, Jones.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

Penelope M. Hughes,
Clerk of the Board

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