

Brandon's Story

Brandon Turns Father's Diagnosis Into Opportunity to Help Family, Others

My story with Alzheimer's begins long before I ever had any idea how it would impact my life. My name is Brandon, I am 13 years old and my Dad was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's in his late 40s.

At the time, my sister and I were in Kindergarten and 1st grade. For my Mom, it was impossible to believe as my sister, Brittany, had been diagnosed a few years earlier with autism. Suddenly, my Mom's world was filled with a child with autism and trying to wrap her arms around the fact the love of her life, the father of her children, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's so young.

How could that be?

The care needed for my sister in the early years prevented my Mom from really being able to plan for what a future might look like for my Dad in the later stages of Alzheimer's. We missed many important moments, dreams and events early on. I wish we could have realized that – because before I even entered high school my Dad would not be able to understand most of what goes on in my life or remember my friends or know my birthday or how old I am.

We went through really difficult times this year. It would fill an entire chapter in a book with everything from poor care at a nursing home to a terrible anti-psychotic with horrible results to being restricted on how often we could see my Dad.



Brandon and his dad playing golf, the year he was diagnosed.

Our journey is so long and complicated, that I plan to help my Mom write our story as a book or movie – so we can put faces on the lives this journey impacts. Currently, my Dad resides at home with us and with a lot of help -- we take one day at a time.

I try to balance being a kid that likes hanging with friends and playing lacrosse along with walking this journey as best I can with my Mom. I am dedicated to helping everyone in my path with this journey, speaking on the subject any chance I get and hoping to become a young advocate!

I want to be a voice for the many teenagers affected by this terrible disease, I want to persuade Congress to push more money toward helping not only find a cure but help families like mine deal with the enormity of it all.

Programs for YOU

24 Hour Helpline

Trained staff and volunteers are available to provide information, referrals and support.

Family Care Consultation

Professional staff assist persons with dementia and their families better understand, cope & plan for the future.

Support Groups

Regularly scheduled group sessions offer education and support to persons with dementia and their care partners.

Education Programs

Programs teach individuals the skills necessary to provide quality care to persons with dementia, and educate everyone about the disease.

MedicAlert® + Safe Return®

National identification and mobilization program that assists in the location and return of persons who wander.

Early Stage Programs

Activities that engage, encourage and empower individuals to fully utilize their strengths.

CarePro

Intensive multi-week education and skills-based training for care partners.

EPIC

A multi-week workshop series for both the person with early memory loss and their care partner together.

For more information about or to use any program, please call us at:

800.272.3900



NOT JUST A DISEASE OF THE BRAIN...IT'S A DISEASE OF THE HEART!

Alzheimer's disease doesn't just affect our senior population – it affects the entire family. Memories and moments are stolen from us all! With your help, we are changing the face of Alzheimer's forever!