ZOOM COURSES

Zoom classes are free, limited in size, and all materials are provided at no cost. Applicants must register for the program, be able to read and write, and provide a doctor's diagnosis. They must also have a computer or a hands-free device with a camera and microphone. In some cases, a caregiver may be needed to help access the Zoom classroom online.

Registrar for CompU.Talk and Campfire
Brenda Maust, 979-849-5051

COMPU.TALK (ZOOM SCHOOL)

For people diagnosed with AD, MCI, Parkinson's, stroke, or vascular dementia, the Gathering Place CompU.Talk initiative offers two hours of virtual classroom time on Mondays 36 weeks a year.

The program's goals are to slow cognitive decline and improve short-term memory and mood in a stimulating and fun format.

The curriculum includes exercise, music, English, humanities, and memory retrieval activities drawn from studies establishing effectiveness in delaying symptoms of the diseases. The activities that lower risk factors for Alzheimer's also slow progression of the disease at any stage. CompU.Talk is now in its sixth year.

CAMPFIRE

Campfire was established to help men who have Parkinson's slow the progression of the disease, delay or prevent dementia, practice speaking skills, and benefit from Reminiscing Therapy led by Beverly Bernzen, LCSW and Cynthia Gray, LCSW. The group meets 45 minutes each week year-round.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

To spread awareness and to educate, the Gathering Place Speakers' Bureau members are available to address various dementia and caregiving topics for community groups. **Book Pat Ortiz, Janet Riddle and Mary Pat Carroll by calling Debbie Armentor at 979-308-4525**.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

SUPPORT GROUP

Caregiver support is offered on the first Friday of each month from noon to 2 pm in Alvin (includes lunch and adult day care).

1st Friday
Lunch, Adult Day Care
Noon to 2 pm
First Christian Church
1212 S Durant, Alvin

CONFERENCES

At our annual June and October caregiver conferences, we have activities for your loved one to enjoy while you are attending the event. When you make your reservation, be sure to make one for your family member.
Of course, there is no charge.

RESOURCES

Alzheimer's Association 800-272-3900

Alzheimer's Foundation 866-232-8484

Alzheimers.gov U.S. government website

LEADERSHIP

Dale Libby
CEO, Chairman of the Board
dale.libby1954@gmail.com
979-236-5393

Dr. Christina Parker
Executive Director
director@gatheringplacebrazoria.org
979-529-7143

Eva King
Coordinator, Alzheimer's Socials
evaking65@yahoo.com
979-665-5359

Erika Longoria
Coordinator, Educational Outreach, Brain Camp and Meta Camp
elongoria10@comcast.net
979-235-9195

Peggy Krampota
Alvin Advisory Council
pkrampota@hotmail.com
281-468-0088

LOCATIONS

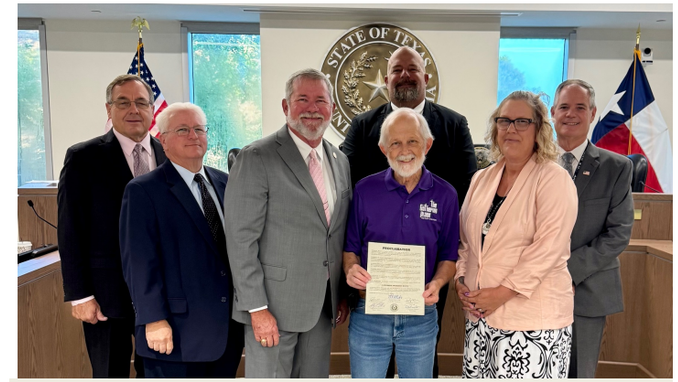
Brazoria County Gathering Place Interfaith Ministries, Inc.
Physical Address: 200 E. Mulberry
Angleton, TX 77515
Mailing Address: PO Box 2050
Angleton, TX 77516
979-308-4525
Mon - Thurs, 10 am - 3 pm

Support Group
1212 S. Durant
Alvin, TX 77511
Inside First Christian Church

office@gatheringplacebrazoria.org

Brazoria County Gathering Place Interfaith Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 which serves Brazoria County families affected by dementia and provides education about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

HELP and HOPE for families affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias



Brazoria County Commissioners Court has proclaimed National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month every November since 2012. Pictured are Commissioners David Linder and Stacy Adams, County Judge Matt Sebesta, Gathering Place CEO Dale Libby and Executive Director Christina Parker, and Commissioners Ryan Cade and Jay Burridge.

"Brazoria County citizens are blessed to have an organization like the Gathering Place. And admirably, they provide all their services at no cost!"

– Brazoria County Commissioner Precinct 4 David Linder

2026 v1

The Gathering Place

Brazoria County Gathering Place
Interfaith Ministries, Inc.

THE GATHERING PLACE

Brazoria County Gathering Place Interfaith Ministries is a non-profit 501c3 which serves Brazoria County families affected by dementia and provides education about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. The original Brazoria County Gathering Place social for Alzheimer's patients started at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Dec. 2007.

Founder Brenda Maust and eight other volunteers entertained nine Alzheimer's patients for four hours while their caregivers took that time off.

Over the past 18 years, a hard-working, determined group of retired business executives, engineers, educators, social workers, nurses, therapists, ministers, marketers and homemakers have created a comprehensive group of programs which they offer free.

More than a dozen programs provide caregiver support, cognition-boosting activities for the memory-impaired, and education for families affected by dementia. Brain Fair, presentations to groups, and health fair exhibits educate the public about dementia.

The Gathering Place won the 2015 Vision Award from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability, a statewide award for creating the most outstanding wellness program delivered by volunteers.

GATHERINGS

Gatherings are 4 hour activity-based socials for people with memory disorders held at partner congregations once each month.

In South County, Gatherings are held on Thursdays.

1st Thurs The Bridge est. Dec. 2007 meets at 1st Presbyterian Angleton Pat Williams
2nd Thurs. Chapelwood Lake Jackson est. Sept 2011 Sherri Archer
4th Thurs. 1st Presbyterian Angleton est. Sept. 2009 Jill Farmer

In Alvin, they are offered on Wednesdays.

1st Wed. Alvin Lutheran est. June 2015 Janet Riddle
2nd Wed. First Presbyterian est. Feb. 2014 Janet De Leon
3rd Wed. 1st Christian est. March 2015 meets at First Methodist Melodii Meshek and Melinda Kay Brandt
4th Wed. St. John the Baptist Catholic est. April 2016 Nancy Cuello
5th Wed Heights Baptist est. Jan. 2020 Charen Shipley

Caregivers drop off their family members at 9:50 am and pick them up at 2 pm. They take that time off to rest or do chores.
Caregivers have 32 hours each month to take off, free, from their caregiving duties.

BCAAP

The Brazoria County Alzheimer's Awareness Project was the outcome of a June 14, 2012 Town Hall meeting held in Commissioner's Court which addressed the looming crisis our communities are facing due to the effects of dementia in our aging populations.

More than two dozen Gathering Place volunteers, healthcare companies and social service and government agencies met in August 2012 to plan activities and events to educate our citizenry about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Since 2012, with BCAAP, our Speakers' Bureau, the Brain Fair and community fair participation, we have provided education for more than 18,000 people in Brazoria County. These education opportunities have included 22 conferences, 7 First Responder trainings, 10 Brain Fairs, over 200 community presentations and a support group each month with 20 members.

BCAAP has hosted a community-based Memory Screening Project each year since 2012, partnering with the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and the Brazoria County Library System. We have screened over 2,000 people in the past twelve years. These screenings have resulted in more than 400 referrals to doctors for further tests.

In addition to the library screenings during National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month (November), we also provide screenings at our caregiver conferences and community health fairs.

The annual June conference in Alvin in 2023 attracted 201 attendees.

CAMPS and COURSES

BRAIN CAMP

It is well-accepted science now that lowering risk factors for Alzheimer's may not only prevent or delay onset of AD, but it is the best non-pharmacological treatment to slow progression of the disease. At Brain Camp, you'll learn the "Big Eight" risk factors and how to build cognitive reserve, extra neurons and synapses that provide resilience against disease. Research indicates that it's never too late to begin the lifestyle changes that may result in delaying symptoms of dementia. Those changes also result in better physical, mental and emotional health.

META CAMP

Metabolic syndrome is a group of conditions that put people at increased risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes. These conditions include increased blood pressure, high blood sugar, excess body fat around the waist, and abnormal cholesterol or triglyceride levels. Nearly half of our 60+ population has metabolic syndrome.

The Gathering Place offers Meta Camp, a series of lectures and support groups to help people lose significant weight to reduce their risk of dementia and their use of drugs and insulin.

You will discover why you put on pounds around your belly and how you can take the weight off and keep it off.

For information about Brain Camp and Meta Camp, call Erika Longoria at 979-235-9195

CULTURE CAMP

In 2024, the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences and the Lake Jackson Historical Museum collaborated with the Gathering Place to roll out special programming for people with memory disorders.

Each organization presents one program each quarter of the year. Topics feature the arts, science, and history presented by specially trained docents.

To be put on the Culture Camp event notification e-list, call Christina Parker at 979-308-4525 M-Th 10-3 pm.

Many thanks to our funders:

Community Foundation Lowrey Fund

United Way of Brazoria County

Sponsors of our annual Brain Fair