

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, Campfire, and Lunch and Learn:
Brenda Maust, 979-849-5051

COMPU.TALK

For people diagnosed with AD, MCI, Parkinson's, stroke, or vascular dementia, the Gathering Place CompU.Talk initiative offers two and a half hours of virtual class

time each Monday, 36 weeks each 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 fourth year.



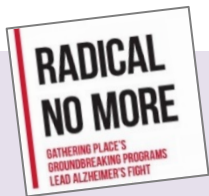
CAMPFIRE

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 Bernsen, LCSW and Barbara Bennett, SLP. The group meets 45 minutes each week for 16 weeks in Spring and Autumn sessions.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Presented four times a year, Lunch and Learn features talks by health care professionals over the lunch hour via Zoom.

Invitations will go out one month in advance to people who have signed up for our Event Invitation list. **To be placed on the list, call 979-849-5051.**



October 2022 in The Facts' PULSE magazine:

"Gathering Place's Groundbreaking Programs Lead Alzheimer's Fight!"

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 Marybelle Perez, Janet Riddle, and Mary Pat Carroll by calling Debbie Armentor at 979-308-4525.**



MEMORY CARE ALLIANCE

Memory Care Alliance Facebook group is a caregiver-provider network sharing resources, information, support and encouragement for those wanting to learn. Latest studies and trials about dementia are posted. Contact Brenda Maust at 979-849-5051.

CAREGIVER REGISTRY

Caregiver Registry is a free referral for independent providers looking for caregiving jobs. Call the office at 979-308-4525 to have registration forms sent to you.

LEADERSHIP

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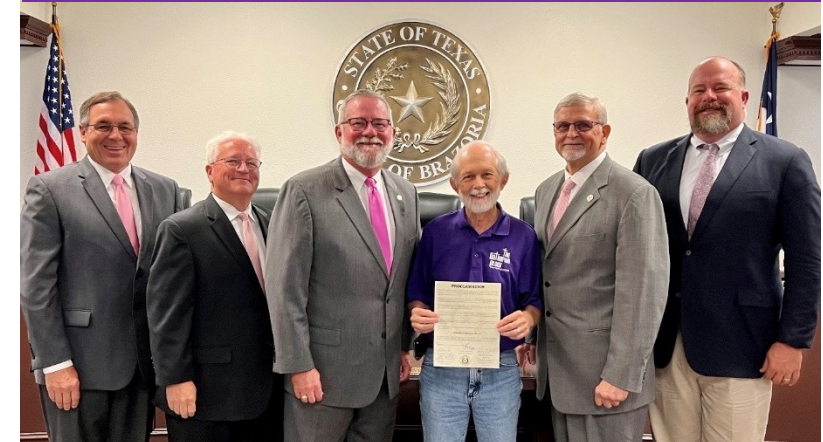
Brazoria County Gathering Place Interfaith Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 which serves Brazoria County families affected by dementia and provides education about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

LOCATIONS

Brazoria County Gathering Place Interfaith Ministries, Inc.
200 E. Mulberry
Angleton, TX 77515
979-308-4525
Mon - Thurs, 10 am - 3 pm

Support Group and Early Stage Coaches, Inc.
1212 S. Durant
Alvin, TX 77511
Inside First Christian Church
979-849-5051
By appointment

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



November has been proclaimed National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month by the Brazoria County Commissioners and the County Judge since 2012. Pictured are Commissioner David Linder, Commissioner Stacy Adams, County Judge Matt Sebesta, Gathering Place CEO Dale Libby, Commissioner Dude Payne, and Commissioner Ryan Cade.

"Brazoria County has the best, most comprehensive set of free services for families affected by dementia, not only in Texas, but in the United States."

– Brazoria County Commissioner Precinct 1 Dude Payne

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 8 other volunteers entertained 9 Alzheimer's patients for four hours while their caregivers took that time off.

Over the past 17 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. 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.

Caregiver Respite and Support

FREE SOCIALS

Gathering Places are 4-hour activity-based socials offered by nine area congregations in Alvin, Angleton, Clute, and Lake Jackson.

Trained volunteers host each social from 10 am to 2 pm once each month at each church. Caregivers may leave their family members who have memory disorders and use that time to rest.

Participants enjoy reminiscing, exercise, music, dance, arts and crafts, games, and a hot lunch. There is no charge to attend the socials, but the caregiver must complete a registration form and provide a letter from a doctor specifying the type of memory impairment.

Additional information:
Eva King, 979-665-5359.



SUPPORT GROUPS

Caregivers support is offered on the first Thursday in Angleton at 6 pm and the first Friday from noon to 2 pm in Alvin (includes lunch and adult day care).

1st Thursday
Younger Onset Group
6 pm to 7:30 pm
Gathering Place Office
200 E Mulberry, Angleton

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

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 18 conferences, 7 First Responder trainings, 8 Brain Fairs, over 200 community presentations and 2 support groups each month with 20 members in each group.

Since 2012, BCAAP has hosted one of the largest community-based Memory Screening Projects in the United States each year, according to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. In partnership with the Brazoria County Library System, we have screened over 2,000 people in the past eleven years. These screenings have resulted in more than 365 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, community health fairs and "Memory Matters" events held at senior living facilities in September and October.



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 late 2023 and into 2024, the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences and the Lake Jackson Historical Museum, collaborating with the Gathering Place, will roll out special programming for people with memory disorders.

Each organization will present one program each quarter of 2024. Topics will feature the arts, science, and history presented by specially trained docents.

To be put on the Culture Camp event notification e-list, call Dayna Bickham 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