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Contact:
Jacqueline Murray
Institute on Aging
415.750.4139
press@ioaging.org

San Francisco's Institute on Aging Announces First Co-Op Program for Individuals with Dementia and Their Families, Enabling Financially Accessible Care

IOA also reopens its Enrichment Day Program in the Presidio on June 7; plus expands its Companioa program to provide end-to-end support to families needing dementia care, education and guidance

SAN FRANCISCO, June 1, 2021 — [Institute on Aging](#), one of California's largest nonprofits dedicated to health and community programs for older adults and adults living with disabilities, today announced a bold new initiative for adults with dementia and their family caregivers to obtain **financially accessible care during daytime hours** beginning on June 7. Called the Community Cooperative Adult Day Program (CCADP) and funded by a generous grant from the [Stupski Foundation](#), the program enables certain families who qualify to receive low or no-cost care for those with dementia in exchange for service hours performed by their family member. Institute on Aging has partnered with [The Presence Care Project](#) and [DayBreak](#) to pilot the co-op program.

Along with the launch of the CCADP, Institute on Aging announces the reopening of its Enrichment Day Program for older adults with dementia and other cognitive challenges, on June 7, after more than a year of closure due to the pandemic. The Enrichment Day Program is a paid program for families. Both the CCADP and Enrichment Day Program will be housed at Institute on Aging's [Companioa Enrichment Center in the Presidio](#), a sunlight-filled facility with myriad amenities and outdoor space.

Institute on Aging believes that dementia is one of the defining health conditions of this time and therefore has doubled down on its efforts to provide the most comprehensive support for individuals with dementia and those who care for them. Institute on Aging's comprehensive Companioa program provides a family of services — including a care coach program, two concurrent day programs at its Companioa Enrichment Center, an in-home care option—plus care management, education and support groups.

“When the pandemic first began, I don't think anyone could have predicted the incredible toll it would take on individuals with dementia and their families,” said Tom Briody, President and CEO of Institute on Aging. “These families have been shouldering the bulk of caregiving responsibilities for well over a year, and their struggles have gone largely unseen by the public. The reopening of the Companioa Enrichment Center is offering them a new sense of relief.”

The co-op is the first of its kind in the Bay Area. It allows care partners, who are usually a family member of the individual with dementia, to work weekly cohort-based shifts at Institute on Aging's Companioa Enrichment Center in the Presidio. The care partners handle tasks such as serving meals, facilitating small group activities and hands-on care to participants . In exchange for the care partner's time, his or her loved one with dementia can participate in day-long enrichment brain stimulating activities such as art, dancing, music, gardening and nature walks, plus enjoy meals and utilize transportation services – all at no extra cost. Care partners are fully trained by Institute on Aging and are offered education and support groups as part of the co-op program. In some cases, care partners have the option to work their shifts from home.

Both CCADP and the Enrichment Day Program are fully staffed with Institute on Aging specialists in dementia care. Everyone participating in the program is required to have been fully vaccinated from COVID-19.

A study reported on by [Nature](#) indicated that people with dementia were likely to experience worsening psychiatric symptoms and severe behavioral disturbances as a result of social isolation during the pandemic.

Nearly 20% of residents in San Francisco are 65 and older, which is higher than the national average of 16.5%. As this segment of the population ages, so will the number of dementia diagnoses. According to the [Dementia Friendly America](#) formula, it is estimated 12,000 San Franciscans who are 65 or older already have some form of dementia today. Nationally, this number of Americans identified as having Alzheimer's is expected to swell from 5.7 million in 2020 to 14 million by 2050.

“It's been tough to see the dramatic drop in the well-being of individuals with dementia and their families,” said Alison Moritz, Program Director for Institute on Aging's Companioa Enrichment Center who has kept in touch with Institute on Aging's families from a distance during the pandemic. “The lack of socialization, not being able to leave the house and the burnout of care partners has been really hard. We're ecstatic to be able to finally re-open our doors again and help these folks regain a semblance of normalcy.”

About Institute on Aging

Founded in 1973, Institute on Aging (IOA) is one of California's largest community-based nonprofit organizations providing comprehensive health, social, and psychological services for older adults and adults living with disabilities. IOA's mission is to enhance the quality of life for adults as they age, by enabling them to maintain their health, well-being, independence, and participation in the community. Long considered one of the most innovative and diverse organizations of its kind, Institute on Aging annually touches the lives of more than 20,000 older adults and adults with living disabilities and their families each year through programs designed to alleviate isolation and enable seniors to continue living independently in the community. Learn more at www.ioaging.org.

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