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The National Center for Creative Aging Launches the NCCA Creative Caregiving Guide

Flourishing the Art of Caregiving

October 13, 2015 (Orlando, FL) – A clear and urgent need exists for effective interventions serving older adults living with Alzheimer’s and related cognitive disorders—alongside all who provide their care. Currently, the fastest growing percentage of the US population is comprised of older adults over the age of 85. More than 5.4 million Americans live with Alzheimer’s disease – and the number of individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease alone doubles with each five-year interval after the age of 65. And the statistics are echoed around globe. Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) reports more than 46.8 million adults are living with dementia in 2015 and estimates that there will be in excess of 131.5 million individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and other related cognitive disorders by 2050.

As the population continues to age, the number of caregivers for older adults with Alzheimer’s is expected to rise rapidly, with enormous emotional, physical, and financial challenges placed upon spouses, relatives, and friends

The National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA) and the UCF College of Arts & Humanities will convene with national leaders and advocates, master teaching artists and researchers to launch the NCCA Creative Caregiving Guide on October 13, 2015 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. ET, at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, Florida.

The NCCA Creative Caregiving Guide is a FREE, web-based and community-shared resource, specially designed for both family and professional caregivers of adults who live with Alzheimer's disease and related cognitive disorders. This FREE guide was supported by the Helen Bader Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, and the Pabst Charitable Foundation for the Arts. The University of Central Florida College of Arts & Humanities led the research efforts for the Caregiving Guide translating creative techniques to user friendly exercises for caregivers.

From the convenience of your own home, office, or care setting you can learn, experience, and share vibrant, research-based caregiving exercises that help you and your care partner to flourish in the art of daily caregiving.

“I can speak to the instant closeness that happened when we worked together. My mom kept saying, “This is just great! When can we sing together again?” – NCCA Creative Caregiving Guide User

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“The Guide represents brilliant and inspired work by the design team. I am in awe of any team that can start with a raw idea and turn it into a real, living entity that is out there providing concrete benefits for people.” – NCCA Creative Caregiving Guide User

*“...to create the caregiver guide, I drew on my experience in having used poetry with my mother in hospice. I knew from my life how powerful art could be in bringing joy to the caregiving experience.”
– Gary Glazner, Founder of the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project*

Available for further inquiries and interviews

Gay Hanna, Executive Director
National Center for Creative Aging

Greg Finch, Director of Field Services
National Center for Creative Aging

Margery Pabst Steinmetz, President
The Pabst Charitable Foundation for the Arts

Gary Glazner, Founder
Alzheimer’s Poetry Project

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The National Center for Creative Aging is dedicated to fostering an understanding of the vital relationship between creative expression and healthy aging, and to developing programs that build upon this understanding.