

September – November 2024

Endless Possibilities

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ORANGE COUNTY'S OLDER ADULTS



orangecountync.gov/Aging



AGING TRANSITIONS

Aging Transitions provides a variety of services and supports for older adults and their families as they face changing health needs, relocation, and other age-related issues. Call the Aging Helpline at 919-968-2087, Mon - Fri, 9 am - 4 pm. You may also email Aging Transitions at agingtransitions@orangecountync.gov. Chinese Helpline: 919-245-4275 / Spanish Helpline: 919-245-2010.

Social Engagement Programs

R Place Community Service Project to support Orange County Animal Services

R Place devoted a community service project to helping pets in need. We packaged dog and cat food in 7-day supply baggies for the Orange County Animal Services' community pet food pantry, which is available to provide pet food to community members going through tough times. We delivered over a hundred bags of each and enjoyed our service work with Joy For All robotic cat and dog pets as mascots. There were lots of laughs, meows, and barking.



R Place was the proud Community Partner of VOICES Spring Concert

Voices The Chapel Hill Chorus chose R Place, as their community partner to highlight in their spring concert, Shadow & Light. This piece, by Joan Szymko, is a compassionate exploration of the lives of those touched by Alzheimer's dementia. The libretto is a carefully ordered collection of poems and texts from various sources, including scripture, contemporary poets, the composer's own writing, and poems by caregivers. The choral singing raised the roof and Shadow & Light was beautiful, brave, and powerful.



R Place Memory Café at Union Grove United Methodist Church

R Place and the Dementia Friends @ Carolina hosted a Memory Café at the Union Grove United Methodist Church. It was an intergenerational event. Everyone enjoyed fun activities like bowling, ping pong, chair volleyball, balloon hats and a fiesta flower craft as well as a delicious lunch and live music. It was a huge success that educated the greater community to embrace and engaged friends living with dementia and their loved ones.



Dementia Friendly Community

Dementia Friendly Community training is a Social Engagement program offered to educate the greater community to recognize and support people living with dementia, providing them with an opportunity to live a good quality of life and remain a valued member of Age Friendly Orange County. The Dementia Friendly Community training program now expands its reach to all segments of the community including neighborhood networks to create more Dementia Friendly Partners.

To schedule a Dementia Friendly Community training, please contact Alison Smith at alsmith@orangecountync.gov





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Social Engagement Programs

R Place Community Service Project to support Marian Cheek Jackson Center



We are so proud of all the hard work from our friends living with dementia who donated all the crafts made together at R Place over the past few months to be sold at the Holiday Market at Passmore. This community service project aims to support Marian Cheek Jackson Center in creating a Neighborhood Respite Care at 308 Lindsay Street. Not only did R Place raise \$1500.00 dollars, but we were also able to share the story of what R Place is about and the need to create more respite programs in the greater community. R Place is a robust social engagement program based



on the Respite for All model that runs on Volunteer-Power! Once a week volunteers, friends living with dementia and their care partners will have the opportunity to recharge, reconnect and recreate!

Social Engagement Programs like R Place involve fun, creative activities that allow people to connect with each other. Volunteers help to create a stigma free environment that understands the social needs of our friends living with dementia, reinforcing cognitive resilience and helping participants feel a sense of purpose and belonging. To learn more about joining the R Place community as a friend living with dementia or a volunteer, please contact Alison Smith at alsmith@orangecountync.gov



Memory Café @ R Place

Memory Cafés are intended for Care Partners (friends living with dementia and their caregivers together). Cafés work to build safe, positive communities that reduce stigma associated with neurocognitive issues, as we all learn more about how to provide mutual support for one another and build a social network.

Please join us to form new relationships, do group service projects, enjoy storytelling, guided light exercise, as well as art, music and games. We can all benefit from spending time at Memory Café @ R Place, as we learn and grow together.

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Dementia Friends @ Carolina: Dementia friendly communities include dementia friendly campuses, and students at UNC Chapel Hill have formed Dementia Friends @ Carolina. Students volunteered to provide respite during the Caregiver Day of Care event at the Seymour Center. They hosted a brainstorming Memory Café to create a list of activities for the 2025 Spring semester. They also hosted a Memory Café concert featuring singers from The Loreleis, UNC's Premier Upper Voices A Cappella Group.



The Loreleis, UNC

March – May 2025



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Social Engagement Programs

R Place - A documentary is in the works!

R Place is being recognized for being the first secular version of the Respite for All model. Respite for All Foundation filmed a documentary with the help of a production team known as TaleGate that focuses on telling the stories of seniors across the country. The TaleGate crew was on site at three Respite for All communities in Birmingham, Alabama and R Place in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. We can't wait to host showings at the Passmore and Seymour centers!



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Dementia Friends @ Carolina: Exciting News: Dementia friendly communities include dementia friendly campuses, and students at UNC Chapel Hill have formed Dementia Friends @ Carolina. This spring, student set up a Dementia Friends @ Carolina table on campus to promote dementia friendly communities and the importance of Respite programs and Memory Cafes for friends living with dementia and their care partners.



DFC Student Tabling



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Social Engagement Programs

R Place celebrated their 1-year anniversary!



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Exciting News: Dementia friendly communities include dementia friendly campuses, and students at UNC Chapel Hill are working to start a student organization, **Dementia Friends @ Carolina**. The students hope to increase dementia awareness on campus and build intergenerational connections. They hope to bring in student groups to perform at R Place and expand memory café @ R Place programming.

