



EXCELLENCE
IN CARE

DEMENTIA CARE PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION

*A nationwide standard of excellence
for care settings that provide care to
individuals with Alzheimer's disease
or related dementias*

www.excellenceincare.org

What is Excellence in Care?

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) developed Excellence in Care to promote continual improvement of care for people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, and to establish best practices at dementia care settings across the country. The program provides facilities with the tools and resources to offer their clients the most current—and highest—standards of care.

The initiative, created by AFA and other industry experts, consists of a comprehensive on-site evaluation and ongoing consultation on strategies to achieve and sustain the highest standards for quality of care.

By recognizing those centers that meet these voluntary guidelines, Excellence in Care also helps facilities distinguish themselves from competitors, and offers families a point of comparison as they select programs that best meet the needs of their loved ones.

How Does the Evaluation Process Work?

An AFA Excellence in Care Specialist—a dementia care expert who has met qualifications set by AFA and who has undergone specialized training for this program—will conduct a comprehensive review of the dementia care setting. This includes:

Pre-evaluation visit. The Excellence in Care Specialist will meet with the facility's administrative staff to provide pre-evaluation consultation and to review required documentation for the on-site evaluation.

On-site evaluation. The extensive evaluation will examine program design, environmental factors, safety features, staff-client interaction and engagement, interpersonal communication, recreational therapies, clients' personal hygiene, privacy issues, standards on nutrition, hydration and other activities of daily living, training programs for staff and families, and other areas related to excellence in care. A rating scale determines whether each specific area meets the Excellence in Care standards.

Ongoing consultation. Following this process, the Excellence in Care Specialist will partner with the care setting, providing recommendations and ongoing consultation on how the facility can improve its setting and services to meet the program's standards of excellence.

Care settings that successfully meet the standards established by this initiative will earn the status of *Alzheimer's Foundation of America Excellence in Care Dementia Program of Distinction*.

What Type of Care Settings Qualify?

- Assisted living facilities
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Continuum of care residential communities
- Adult day services/ adult day healthcare programs



Excellence in Care[™]
Dementia Care Program of Distinction

Why Do Care Settings Want this National Status?

Provide optimal care—Ensure the best quality of life for your residents/clients.

Increase your marketability—Be recognized as a model of dementia care in your community.

- Gain an edge over the competition.
- Increase your visibility—recognition for excellence on AFA's Web site.
- Familiarize the community with your setting.
- Highlight the Excellence in Care distinction in marketing materials.

Retain and recruit staff—Provide ongoing and comprehensive training.

- Enhance knowledge and understanding of dementia.
- Boost staff morale.
- Build confidence.

Be a dementia care resource—Conduct educational workshops for clients' family and friends.

- Provide knowledge and support.
- Encourage communication.
- Enhance staff-family interaction.

PLUS...

Assist families select the best care—

Excellence in Care serves as a resource—and offers a comfort level—for families choosing care settings for their loved ones. If a facility has this status, families know that the care setting has voluntarily gone through the Excellence in Care evaluation process and has attained AFA's national standard of excellence.

"The AFA Excellence in Care designation has given credence to the sincerity and quality of the work done each day by the staff at The 80th Street Residence... The program has become an incredible incentive and reminder to each of us that if we are willing to challenge ourselves by opening both our minds and spirits to new ideas, the results will lead us beyond our existing expectations of quality care."

– **Wayne Kaplan,**

co-owner,
The 80th Street Residence,
New York

How Can Your Care Setting Become an Excellence in Care Dementia Program of Distinction?

Contact:

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

866.AFA.8484

info@alzfdn.org

How Can Someone Become an Excellence in Care Specialist?

Learn more about the application and training processes, and apply online by visiting:

www.excellenceincare.org

About the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)

OUR MISSION:

"To provide optimal care and services to individuals confronting dementia, and to their caregivers and families through member organizations dedicated to improving quality of life."

AFA unites hundreds of member/associate member organizations from coast to coast to collaborate on best practices, program design and implementation, education, fundraising, and national initiatives, such as raising awareness about early detection and advocating for government funding for care.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- A national resource & referral network with a toll-free hot line
- Counseling by licensed social workers
- Training and qualification for dementia healthcare professionals
- Comprehensive educational conferences, materials and DVD's
- Free quarterly magazine for caregivers, care *AD*antage
- Grants to nonprofit member organizations and families
- AFA Teens—a division to support, educate and engage the younger generation
- AFA's National Memory Screening Day—an annual event each November that offers free confidential memory screenings
- AFA Quilt to Remember—the nation's first grand-scale quilt that pays tribute to those affected by dementia

CONTACT

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