

Alzheimer Society

ONTARIO

Founded in 1983, the Alzheimer Society of Ontario (ASO) is the province's leading care and research charity committed to helping people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by:

1. **Providing care, support, information and education** for people living with dementia and their families and caregivers
2. **Funding research** to find a cure
3. **Educating decision-makers** about the need for improved health-care services and qualified health-care workers to support people with dementia
4. **Increasing awareness** about dementia and how the disease impacts families and communities

With a network of 30 local Societies across Ontario, we offer **Help for Today** through our programs and services for people living with dementia and **Hope for Tomorrow...**[®] by funding research to find the cause and cure.

1. Help for Today: Care and support

Staff and volunteers in 30 Alzheimer Societies across Ontario provide support programs, educational resources and referral services to ease the burden of care and improve the quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Services are free for as long as they are needed. These include:

- Memory clinics for early detection
- Education and information sessions
- Support groups
- Private and family counselling
- Respite care – short term overnight stays to alleviate caregiver burden
- Art and music programs

First Link[®] is an innovative program that gives people with dementia and their caregivers and families a direct connection to information and services in their own communities. Ontarians living with dementia receive information about diagnosis, day-to-day living, positive approaches to care and how to prepare for the end of life. The program also provides individual support and counselling and links people with the disease to other Alzheimer Society programs and services.

Finding Your Way[™]: Three out of five people with dementia will go missing at some point, often without warning. Finding Your Way is a program that raises awareness of the risks of people with dementia going missing and helps to prevent such incidents from occurring. In conjunction with Finding Your Way, **Medic Alert**[®] **Safely Home**[®] helps police find people with dementia who are missing and return them home safely.

2. Hope for Tomorrow...: Raising funds for world-class research

For the Alzheimer Society of Ontario, funding research to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias is a top priority. In 2013, ASO contributed \$1,796,000 to the Alzheimer Society Research Program and an additional \$212,000 to other research programs.

The Alzheimer Society Research Program, a collaborative effort between the Alzheimer Society of Canada (ASC), its provincial affiliates, partners and donors provides Research Grants and Training Awards to support the vital work of Canadian investigators in:

- Biomedical research into the causes and cure for Alzheimer's disease
- Research into social and psychological aspects of the disease, including caregiving, family support and long-term care.

3. Educating decision-makers: No one needs to face this disease alone

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias have the potential to overwhelm Ontario's health-care system. We campaign for improved health and social services and a workforce qualified to support people with dementia.

Our powerful network of volunteer Dementia Champions across the province support our requests for greater support for those living with the disease and their families.

4. Awareness: Offering the latest information

We search for and publish the latest information about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, including risk factors, myths, and how you can help delay the onset or slow the progression of the disease.

Our Vision: **A world without Alzheimer's disease and other dementias**

Our Mission: **To alleviate the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and to promote research.**

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