BIODERAL SALES

GRATITUDE REPORT



it's still me in here

ALZHEIMER CALGARY

it's still **me** in here



There is a need to make community-wide social change

Social movements have the power to shape meaningful change and unite communities around a cause. Their success is fueled by passionate people with shared concerns, frustration with the status quo, and a desire for progress.

In 2023, we completed in-depth research into the local perceptions of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. This discovery gave us an in-depth understanding of the needs and direct action required for developing a social movement.

Key findings

0

People in Calgary and area often:

- Do not understand dementia well
- Are fearful of dementia
- Have a grim mental picture of what dementia looks like
- Assume an almost immediate loss of awareness and function in the person.

Calgary's increasing cultural diversity also increases the need for timely action. In some cultures:

- There is no concept of dementia
- Negative or derogatory words are used
- Dementia can affect family members' reputations.

Building a movement

Together, we will mobilize action and help:

- Increase understanding of dementia
- Stamp out negative stigma
- Open hearts and minds, shaping new perceptions
- Spark a groundswell of support
- Elevate the voices of people impacted by dementia, and
- Create a more open and inclusive community.

Over half of Calgarians (57%)

agree that this is the health condition they fear most

JANET BROWN OPINION RESEARCH, 2023

ACTIONS AHEAD

Greater public awareness-building and engagement using a multi-channel approach

COLORIA DI LI KA

More tools and resources

Opportunities for partner participation

Continued expansion of our current cultural strategy

A new public engagement strategy

These public initiatives will build on our new brand launched in January 2023, empowering the community to see the person instead of the disease.





ALZHEIMER CALGARY it's still me in here

BE PART OF THIS MOVEMENT

Visit stillme.ca

StillMe is helping to change the way our community sees and connects with people affected by Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

Watch for our Campaigns and visit our newly launched website at **StillMe.ca** **GROW THE MOVEMENT** (IN PROGRESS)

LAUNCH STILLME CAMPAIGN (SEPT 2023)

EUILD FOUNDATIONS (SPRING/ SUMMER 2023)

DISCOVER FINDINGS (FEB 2023)

BRAND LAUNCH (JAN 2023)



The heart of our work at Alzheimer Calgary is supporting those affected by Alzheimer's and all other dementias. We are here to help. We guide, educate, and raise awareness. We build understanding, foster dementia-inclusive communities, and aim to reduce the stigma that surrounds Alzheimer's Disease and dementia.

This year we continued our work to advance our BOLD & CARING strategy. Along with our partners, we have created and delivered services to allow those impacted by dementia in our community to have barrier-free access to the knowledge and support they need to live well.

It's been a full and rewarding year. With long-term sustainability in mind, our team has focused on initiatives to mature Alzheimer Calgary's service delivery capability and capacity. We're evolving how we work, with systems and tools that let us respond more effectively to the needs of the diverse populations we serve. We have:

- Improved our information resources by rooting them in plain language best practices.
- Shifted our training approaches from a medical intervention model to a social model which aims to build greater understanding of the emotions and behaviours of a person living with dementia.
- Strengthened our partnerships with equity-deserving groups by providing resources and education that make our services more accessible to underserved groups.
- Provided more opportunities for inter-generational learning at our adult day program, Club 36.
- Extended our Club 36 hours to provide more support for care partners.
- Launched our innovative awareness campaign with a goal to begin a social movement that nurtures a community that is more understanding, supportive and inclusive of people impacted by dementia.
- Updated our branding and tag line, 'It's Still Me in Here', to better reflect our new bold and caring approach and we are pleased with the response from community.

No single organization can tackle the challenges of dementia alone! We continued our work with Dementia Network Calgary, engaging and collaborating with other private, public, and non-profit organizations. Collectively we are advocating for system-level changes to improve health care navigation and stigma reduction.

As always, we are supported by the generosity of our donors who empower us to rise to the challenge. They make us believe in the possibility of a dementia-inclusive community and take pride in providing timely, compassionate support for families every day.

Our incredible team is the heart and soul of Alzheimer Calgary, a true reflection of Alzheimer Calgary's core values. They are dedicated professionals who bring their knowledge, energy, and creativity to work every day. We are inspired by, and grateful for their commitment to achieving our strategy, and realizing our vision of an inclusive and caring community where people impacted by dementia are valued and empowered.

Lois Wozney, **Board President** Barb Ferguson, **Executive Director**

OUR LEARNING & SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM

The past year has seen several highlights for the learning and support services team.

Our Dementia Support Navigators continued to help all those adapting to the changing nature of the dementia journey, helping with system navigation, communication tips, emotional support, resources, and referrals.

Our educational sessions have continued to grow and adapt offering dementia-specific learning opportunities for care partners, family, friends, and those living with dementia.

A Diversity and Inclusion Knowledge Facilitator joined our team. This role is helping us to reach and support previously underserved communities. We strive to collaborate and co-create solutions with organizations that serve equity-deserving populations. Activities include participating in community events and educational opportunities to learn more, as well as co-facilitating education sessions in different languages with partner organizations.

911 Interpreters was introduced to help dementia support navigators better communicate with persons whose primary language is not English. This tool allows access to a live interpreter in real time for either phone calls or virtual meetings.

A plain language audit of our website and materials was completed, helping to create messaging and resources that are more inclusive and accessible.

First Link®

A proactive referral program that helps any newly diagnosed person and their family get connected to help as quickly as possible.

Doctors, health, and community professionals refer families impacted by dementia to Alzheimer Calgary. Once you are connected to us, you have access to direct and ongoing support, services, and education. Together, we can create a plan that ensures you and your loved one live life well from the beginning of your dementia journey.



Dementia Support Navigators (DSNs) documented a total of **2,813 calls.**

Educators delivered a total of 107 sessions to a total of **2,621** participants.



566 FirstLink referrals – up 11% from last year.





The ABCs of Dementia for Helping Professionals (ABC Pro) was launched this year.

ABC Pro was developed to provide training that shifted away from medical models of intervention to a social model, that seeks to understand the emotions and behaviours of the person with dementia.

It is an evidence-based, trauma-informed, personcentred training that assists professional helpers in strengthening their confidence, competence and calmness as they provide support and services for persons living with dementia.

ABC Pro Focuses on:

Attitudes – Exploring the attitudes and stigma towards dementia and caregiving held by society, persons living with dementia, care partners, and helping professionals.

Brain and Behaviour – Highlighting the impact of dementia on the brain and exploring responsive behaviours that may occur with dementia.

Communication – Learning communication techniques to effectively support persons living with dementia and their care partners.



confidence, competence calmness



"Life can be wonderful even with the diagnosis of dementia."

"The shift from a medical focus to a social focus is exactly what health care professionals and caregivers need to support persons living with dementia."

"Really great content and valuable insights."

"I have learned that the behaviours of people living with dementia all have meaning and it's up to us to work and interact with them, in a way where we dive beyond just the surface behaviour."

We asked Charmaine Wong Employment & Community Based Services, Manager **Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre** of Calgary (DDRC) why this training is valuable to them and here is what she had to say:

As there's a proven link between **Developmental Disabilities and Alzheimer's** disease, the DDRC wants to act proactively and provide training for our frontline staff to gain more knowledge on this topic, so we can best support our clients. Charmaine added It will help our frontline staff to create a baseline and advocate for our Clients to get more resources and/or appropriate support, when needed.

Charmaine added that she enjoyed the interactive component of the workshops and learning from discussions. The open conversation was very educational, and the facilitator was able to answer all the questions from the frontline staff.

When asked how do you see these learnings helping to reduce stigma and increase awareness about how dementia impacts the communities you serve? Charmaine noted "When employees know about the topic, it is easier for them to handle any potential upcoming changes."

38% of participants reported feeling confident in their overall knowledge of dementia before the training,

and this number jumped to **100%** after completion.



85% felt they understood how stigma affects people impacted by dementia,

and this number also jumped to **100%** after program completion.

100% plan to use what they learned in the session in their day-to-day life,

and **100%** also rated the content as good or excellent.

CLUB 36 CELEBRATES 36 YEARS!

Club 36 got its name from the book "The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for People Who Have Alzheimer Disease and Other Dementias." Written by experts, the book is focused on a compassionate approach to care.

This compassionate, person-centered approach is what inspired our founder Jeanne Bentley to open our first location in Bridgeland. We now have two locations, Bethany Harvest Hills and AgeCare Seton. One thing has remained the same. It is still an innovative Adult Day Program for people living with dementia using evidence-informed and person-centered approaches to best practices in care.

Today the focus at Club 36 is on creative arts programming for people living with dementia.

This year a highlight included the launch of Meet Me at MoMA, an interactive discussion of art for individuals with dementia. This program was first developed by the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MoMA). MoMA was inspired to develop resources focusing on allowing people living with dementia to better access their collection when they looked at the staggering number of people affected by dementia globally. The resources and programs that MoMA developed can now be used by any organization serving people with dementia and their care partners.

We loved seeing Meet Me at MoMA being used as part of inter-generational programming when our Seton location welcomed Leadership students from Bishop O'Byrne High School. These students had fun learning about art and building connections with our members who are all people living with dementia.

"The partnership between Bishop O'Byrne Community Leadership students and Club 36 has proven to be an invaluable experience for our students. Whether students are missing a grandparent, learning how to navigate dementia in their immediate family, or simply learning a new career pathway, Club 36 enables our students to develop skills vital to their futures....

Students came back each week excited to share the sessions with us and have already expressed that they will miss their 'artners'!"

Amanda Tam, Fashion Studies, English & Community Leadership Teacher, Bishop O'Byrne High School



"Promoting inter-generational learning at Club 36 helps to raise awareness among high school students about dementia. It allows students and our members to be engaged, and feel socially connected through art. It is wonderful to see learning happening in both directions."

Ali Cada, Director Adult Day & Creative Programs, Club 36

We welcomed

Social Work Students from Mount Royal University

University of Calgary and Mount Royal University

Massage Therapy students from Mount **Royal University**



DEMENTIA NETWORK

Dementia Network Calgary uses a collective impact model which leverages the amazing power of community to "do more together". Recognizing that no one organization can tackle the challenges around dementia, the Network brings together a wide variety of people and organizations from the private, public and non-profit sectors to collaborate on work including stigma reduction, advocacy, and navigation at a systems level.

Dementia-Inclusive Park Project

Dementia Network Calgary is excited to be working with the Calgary Parks Foundation, the University of Calgary and Alzheimer Calgary to bring Canada's first dementiainclusive park to life! We held several community gatherings with people impacted by dementia to share their thoughts on how they would use the park, what types of activities they would like to see offered and what features should be included. This park provides an opportunity to show what people living with dementia CAN do and will be a shining example of how to build inclusive outdoor environments.

Learn more at www.parksfdn.com/dementia-inclusive-park/



Missing Vulnerable Older Adults

Every other day a vulnerable older adult is reported missing in Calgary. This is a terrifying experience for families and the person who is lost.

Most people with dementia will go missing at some point, and once someone has been missing once, they are more likely to go missing again. Dementia Network Calgary cochairs the Calgary Missing Older Adult Resource Network which is a collaboration of 14 organizations including Calgary Police, Alberta Health Services, Calgary Fire, Distress Centre and many senior serving organizations. With the support of the Government of Alberta, we designed, printed and translated a Resource Guide for people at risk of going missing.

This guide is available in 10 languages at: www.missingseniors.ca and

provides guidance around risk assessment, prevention and preparation in the event that an incident occurs.

"My wife Sylvia passed in October 2022. She lived with Alzheimer's for more than 10 years. I was her primary caregiver throughout. Sylvia was physically strong and loved the outdoors.

She was guite anxious on City Pathways, especially with bikes and dogs. She was very prone to getting lost.

The dementia park design would have been very beautiful for her and for me - an outing we could have done in peace together."







Strategy Map

This year, we engaged with over 80 organizations to re-envision our strategy map and we are using new software which provides transparency into the objectives, measures, actions and targets in the map.

The feedback on this tool has been inspiring and we look forward to engaging new partners and members of the community with this tool.

Conversation Cafes

The pandemic gave us all a taste of what isolation feels like. Conversation Cafes are one way that people impacted by dementia can reduce their isolation and feel part of a community. Cafes are unstructured, safe environments where people impacted by dementia can enjoy the company of others sharing a similar life experience. This year, four new Conversation Cafes have started in Calgary and area and several more are on the horizon.

A great big thank you to the volunteers who host Conversation Cafes and provide that "safe place" for everyone.

PHILANTHROPY HIGHLIGHTS

You Made a Difference -2022 IG Wealth Management Alzheimer Walk & Run Raises over \$290,000

On Thanksgiving Sunday, over 1,000 participants, volunteers and supporters came together in person at Prince's Island Park to raise money and awareness for families impacted by dementia.

This support helped us to stay on target for our biggest annual fundraiser.

We look forward to connecting next Thanksgiving Sunday!

We also want to give a shout out to the Walker's Walks at Trinty Lodge and Rocky Ridge Retirement Community. They both held successful in house events.



An even Bigger **Ride To Remember**

Thank you to local musician, Devin Cooper, who for the last four years has raised money to support families with his signature charity event called Ride To Remember. This event featured a special concert and **raised over \$40,000** in support of local programs for those impacted by dementia.



We asked **Devin** what makes this event so meaningful to him:

of need."



Canadian Energy Executives Association held multiple events including a charity ball and golf tournament

We thank them for their generosity and for sharing that many of their members have personally been impacted by dementia.

"Community giving is one of the **3 Strategic Pillars of the Canadian Energy Executive Association. We were pleased** to have helped raise approximately \$130,000 among our members for Alzheimer Calgary... knowing they do such good things for those afflicted with the disease, as well as their family members."

Steve and Jenn Major, Chairs of CEEA'71



"I was inspired to create this event not only to raise awareness for the positive impact that music has on people living with dementia, but to also raise funds to help Alzheimer Calgary in their greatest areas

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JEANNE BENTLEY AWARD

Every year the Alzheimer Society of Calgary presents the Jeanne Bentley award to an individual who has demonstrated a real commitment to helping improve the lives of local people living with dementia. The Award is named in honour of our founder, and her ground-breaking vision of an organization dedicated to helping individuals, families, friends, and care partners impacted by dementia.

This year we are pleased to present the award to Carolyn Arrell and Chris Kuzmanovich.



Carolyn Arrell

Carolyn has been a Support Group facilitator for 5 years. All Alzheimer Calgary support groups are volunteer led and allow care partners on the dementia journey to share their common struggles, ask questions, and find resources from a peer group that has multiple perspectives and insights into what they are experiencing.

Carolyn has been a steady and supportive facilitator for this group, who are all adult children supporting parents living with dementia. Her role as a care partner to her late husband and long-distance care giver for her mom gives her insight and understanding into how this journey impacts each of the members.

Carolyn provides a safe place for the care partners to have open and honest conversations about supporting a parent living with dementia. According to her nominator Samantha Reay, "Carolyn truly embodies the purpose of our groups which is to help care partners understand they are not alone, find strategies, and build community."

Along with facilitating Support Groups, Carolyn has been an outstanding volunteer at the IG Wealth Management Alzheimer Walk & Run, giving her time and energy to support our biggest annual fundraiser. She also shares her creative talents with us making fidget muffs, the muffs have proven popular with care partners and beneficial in the care of those with dementia. During her time as President of the Rebekah Assembly of AB over 500 fidget muffs and mats were made and delivered to care homes and individuals around the province, with all funds raised donated to Alzheimer Calgary.

Alzheimer Calgary is incredibly grateful for Carolyn's ongoing support and her dedication to helping families impacted by dementia. We feel fortunate to have her consistent support in so many ways at Alzheimer Calgary, she is truly committed to helping improve the lives of local people living with dementia.



Chris Kuzmanovich

Chris has been volunteering as an artist at Club 36 for the past six years, he has been trained in the foundations of Opening Minds through Art (OMA) around the best ways to engage with our members as a teaching artist.

Chris has also been instrumental in helping to raise the profile of creative arts programing by helping us to coordinate displays at local galleries and libraries across the city. Including helping us establish our contact at the Christine Klassen gallery with the goal of building dementia friendly communities and showcasing the wonderful creativity of people living with dementia. Chris is also a generous donor giving proceeds from the sale of his own art to Alzheimer Calgary.

through the artistic process and by exploring new talents. "

We appreciate his willingness to contribute and share, and how he recognizes the importance of creative arts in improving the overall quality of life for people living with dementia. Chris is breaking barriers for how an artist can work in a health care setting, by making art more accessible. Chris also lent his talents to Club 36 as a designer, helping us to decorate the lobby, giving his time and contacts to help create a beautiful and welcoming space.

Just like our founder Jeanne Bentley, Chris, is a creative soul and recognizes the impact and power of art for people living with dementia and the joy and meaning it brings to their families and care partners to see their loved one involved in art and exploring their creative side.

According to his nominator Ali Cada "Thanks to Chris, we are elevating the quality of arts programs at Alzheimer Calgary and encouraging our members to learn new things. His process allows our members to build confidence

ORGANIZATIONS

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FISCAL 2022

	2023	2022
Total Revenue	\$ 2,768,826	\$ 6,812,275
Total Expenses	\$ 2,798,804	\$ 2,244,980
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses from Operations	\$ (29,978)	\$ 4,567,295
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	\$ (72,574)	\$ 327,912
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenses	\$ (102,552)	\$ 4,895,207

Please visit alzheimercalgary.ca for full financial statements or call 403.290.0110.

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The past year was successful thanks to the incredible support from our community and careful, disciplined resource planning. We strengthened our role as leaders supporting people living with dementia by embracing new strategic partnerships, investing in our staff, technology, evaluation frameworks and continued growth and development.

Alzheimer Calgary is committed to fostering a culture of philanthropy and transparency. As a fiscally responsible non-profit, we have secured our long-term financial viability so we can continue to meet the everincreasing demand for services. Long-term cash flows are supported by generous gifts from donors and through a newly created internally restricted endowment fund. The goal is to sustain Alzheimer Calgary's work by returning 5% of the market value every year to operations. We look forward to working with the new team of professional financial advisors managing our strategic investments.

It has been a great year with lots to be proud of. Including expanding our Club 36 operations and partnering to build Canada's First Dementia-Inclusive Park. With the support of all our partners we will continue to deliver on our strategic initiatives that support our movement building campaign focused on stigma reduction, building awareness, and creating a dementia inclusive community.



Our Vision

An inclusive and caring community where people impacted by dementia are valued and empowered.

Mission

We **lead** with our **influence and expertise to help people** impacted by dementia **to live well** and we **build community capacity** to support them.



Person-centred

Committed to treating each person impacted by dementia with **respect, dignity and compassion at all times**

Outcome-driven

Committed to **advancing evidence-informed practices that demonstrate results**

Advocates for choice

Empowering people with knowledge to help them make **informed choices for themselves**

Barrier-free access

Striving for **accessible services** meeting the needs of **diverse communities.**

Accountable and responsible

Committed to efficient practices and effective, sustainable stewardship of resources.

Collaboration and partnerships

Working with talented teams to leverage resources.

Capacity-building

Increasing capacity and ability of the community to support people impacted by dementia.

WHO HELPS US MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE?

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