

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury Opens Dementia Care Hotline

IRVINGTON, VA –As a leader in Dementia Care education and support, Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury (RWC) remains committed to develop a designated *Dementia Friendly Community*.

To enhance this endeavor, the retirement community has established a hotline to address caregiving issues and provide callers with local resources. The hotline number is 804-438-4892. RWC Dementia Care Coordinator Mary Arthur or other trained professionals answer calls daily from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. After hours, callers can leave a message, and their calls are returned within the next business day.

A *Dementia Friendly Community* supports continued independence for adults with dementia by looking at life through the eyes of a person with dementia. Local shop owners, restaurant, grocery store, and marketplace workers, as well as roadways, can be equipped to provide safe places for those with dementia to live more independently.

The idea is that when a community becomes educated about dementia, those with dementia will be understood, accepted and less likely to become confused and isolated as their disease progresses.

According to the World Health Organization, as of September 2019, more than 50 million people are diagnosed with dementia worldwide and approximately 10 million cases are added every year. Dementia has affected many families in a very personal way.

RWC has developed the Memory Support Group to educate families about the disease, use the best practices to assist their loved ones and to support caregivers during this trying battle with the disease. Arthur has dedicated her life to helping those dealing with dementia and its effects. She and other trained Dementia Care staff will be able to assist those who need information and resources.



“I noticed that there is a lack of knowledge of resources about dementia,” Arthur said. “People don’t realize there is an Alzheimer’s Association in the Northern Neck. I will be providing local and national resources such as Memory support groups, educational programs, and resources for caregivers. I thought it would be a good way to provide ALL resources and families can choose what feels right for them at that time.”



Rappahannock
Westminster-Canterbury

About Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury

Established in 1985, Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury is a church-related, continuing care community that provides the highest quality living experience for discerning, active senior adults. Situated on 165 beautiful acres outside the village of Irvington in Virginia's Northern Neck, RWC is home to those who want the independence and worry-free lifestyle afforded them in a tranquil, rural setting. RWC strives to provide residents everything they require for daily living right in the RWC neighborhood. Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Inc. is a Virginia nonprofit corporation affiliated with the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. All religions are welcome. Learn more about RWC at www.rw-c.org.