

Charter

Dementia Friendly Saline

Dementia Friendly Saline is a grassroots initiative aimed at demonstrating that the Saline community respects and welcomes persons with dementia, and their caregivers and families, as valued participants in our community life. In showing our dementia friendliness to our residents, and to anyone visiting or looking at Saline, it will be valuable to have the support and involvement of all sectors of the community, including city government, schools, business, residential, health care, legal and financial, faith, social services, and the media, as well as persons living with dementia, their caregivers and their families.

The Dementia Friendly Saline Committee, drawn from representatives of as many of these sectors as possible, will coordinate efforts to demonstrate dementia friendliness, including:

- Inform Saline residents about dementia, the challenges people with dementia face in making their way in our community, and how ordinary citizens can readily make the lives of persons with dementia a little less difficult.
- Inform businesses, service organizations, and government entities about ways they can easily and inexpensively can adjust their practices to offer services that are less difficult for persons with dementia—and encourage them to do so.
- Solicit information and ongoing feedback from persons with dementia concerning the most effective ways for various sectors of the community to demonstrate its dementia friendliness.
- Inform persons with dementia and their caregivers about various aspects of living with dementia and about caregiving, legal and financial matters and how and where to get further information and support.
- Connect persons living with dementia and their caregivers with information and support resources, and with other persons in similar circumstances in the community, affording them enjoyable social and recreational opportunities.
- Document Saline’s dementia friendly efforts, publicizing them within the community and in the region
- Coordinate exchange of “lessons learned” and best practices among organizations within Saline, and with dementia friendly organizations in other communities.
- Establish a working relationship with Dementia Friendly America, and link into their nationwide network of other dementia friendly communities.

The Dementia Friendly Saline Committee is conceived as an independent body not part of any government agency or corporate entity; as the effort develops, it may become a 501(c)(3) non-profit. In the short term, EHM can act as fiscal sponsor.

The Committee’s efforts should prioritize activities over meetings, results over process; for persons with dementia, what matters are the daily experiences they have, not the formality of the processes that produced them.