

LETTERS

Caring for a Loved One With Alzheimer's

Readers identify with a writer's account of the emotional and financial burdens, and offer their own personal stories and advice.

Dec. 6, 2019

To the Editor:

If she could still write, my wife would thank you for helping to raise awareness about Alzheimer's. She is in the 12th year of this unwelcome journey that always ends sadly. As Jeneen Interlandi says, life with Alzheimer's is full of indignities.

Alzheimer's is by far America's most expensive disease, and a rapidly growing one. But many people, like me 12 years ago, know so little about this brain disease and are wholly unprepared to take on our new roles. So our loved ones with dementia endure years of inadequate understanding and care.

We need greater awareness about dementia. That's one reason our small town, Saline, Mich., just became one of America's newest Dementia Friendly Communities, joining the nationwide network of over 130 cities and towns that are working to learn about dementia and the difficulties people with dementia face, and how businesses, organizations and citizens can help make life less difficult for these friends and neighbors.

Jim Mangi
Saline, Mich.

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