

Alzheimer Society

GREY - BRUCE

When I picked up the phone to call the Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce I was not expecting much – I assumed the organization would not have a lot of substance.

I am so glad that I was wrong.

At that moment, I needed some more information. My family needed a bit of guidance. The internet is full of facts, but it can be hard to know what is right. Thankfully, the Alzheimer Society answered all our questions. They even answered the questions we did not know to ask.



I always say you can handle anything that you can understand. The Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce gave us understanding.

You are reading this now as someone who supports the Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce. I want to thank you for that support. Each year the society must fundraise 40% of the annual budget.

100% of the money stays in Bruce and Grey to help real people living with dementia. It helps people caring for those living with dementia.

It helped real families like mine.

My name is Ernest Ackert, I am a donor to the Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce. I am also a client. Eight years ago my wife Bonnie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Bonnie and I have been married for 52 years – all of it spent here in Bruce County. First as a farmer and later working in insurance, we made a life here. Family has always been a top priority.

We raised three amazing kids: Jeff and his wife Tracy of Port Elgin, Becky and her husband Jairus of Paisley and Mary and her husband David in Waterloo. Those kids gave us seven incredible grandchildren.

The Alzheimer Society has been providing my family (all fifteen of us) with the information and understanding it needs through phone calls, emails and visits in our home.

From that first phone call – now more than three years ago - Kirstin Camartin has coached us through every step of this process. Kirstin is the First Link Support Counsellor for the Kincardine area where we live.

Once or twice a year, the family would come together for half-day visits with Kirstin. These visits took place at home where everyone could get together and be more comfortable. Mary could even FaceTime into our conversations from Waterloo. Sometimes we started those meetings feeling sorry for ourselves, but we always left feeling better.

I believe that regular meetings with the Alzheimer Society kept Bonnie comfortably at home for an extra three years.

Dementia is a progressive disease. Just when I would figure out the rules, the rules would change. Kirstin kept me one-step ahead. She always had the next rulebook ready and waiting. It made the changes much easier to deal with.

Simple things like putting a whiteboard in our kitchen (for dates and schedules) or taking half the clothes out of the closet made our life easier. It made things richer for Bonnie and for me. For more than three years, we have been getting the right advice at the right time.

Home Visits like the ones my family uses are a core service provided by the Alzheimer Society. As a donor, you have helped people in Tobermory and Dundalk. You can help people in Thornbury, Lucknow and everywhere in between.

Because of people like you, anyone in Grey and Bruce impacted by dementia can get a home visit. The society has seven excellent “coaches” like Kirstin who make a difference every single day.

Demand for home visits has grown by 25% in the last year. With more than 1,000 local families who access the societies’ services each year, this need will continue to grow.

[If possible, can you make a gift to help the Society meet this increased demand? You will be providing crucial support for families all over Bruce and Grey.](#)

Your donation can make a difference for people in your community. Families just like mine.

Sincerely,



Ernest Ackert



ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF GREY-BRUCE
753 2ND AVENUE EAST, OWEN SOUND, ON, N4K 2G9
TEL: (519) 376-7230 1-800-265-9013 FAX: (519) 376-2428
E-MAIL: info@alzheimergreybruce.com WEBSITE:
<http://www.alzheimer.ca/greybruce>
CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NUMBER: 11878 4982 RR0001

