



# Referring Partner Newsletter

## September 2014

YOUR SUPPORT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IN THIS ISSUE

## How does First Link® Work for your Clients?

**First Link** is an innovative referral program designed for people newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families. It provides support as early as possible and throughout the progression of the disease.

Early access to ongoing services and support makes a huge difference to people with the disease, their families and caregivers. It increases their knowledge and understanding of dementia. It helps them better cope and plan for the future, improving quality of life. First Link also helps reduce stress and prevent crises.

### **First Link connects people to:**

- A learning series offering information about diagnosis, day-to-day living, positive approaches to care, how to manage challenges and how to prepare for the future

- Support groups and opportunities for one-to-one counseling
- Additional community programs and services

### **Making a referral is simple**

As soon as the diagnosis is made, the health-care professional asks the person with dementia and his or her family for permission to refer them to First Link. Once consent is given, the health-care professional completes a referral form and sends it to the Alzheimer Society First Link team.

Within four weeks, a First Link support counsellor calls the person with dementia or a caregiver to provide information, assess needs, and connect them directly to information and support services in their community. Those diagnosed and their families also can call First Link directly.

## Learning Series

For people with dementia, their families & friends

### Learning Series

Our Fall/Winter 2014-15 Learning Series schedule is now available! Our 16 week information sessions are set to start September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Inform your patients and their families today so they can take advantage of this invaluable resource to help them along the journey with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

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### Connections Make Anything Possible

One of our goals for the upcoming year is to recruit as many physicians and health care professionals as possible and we need your help to make that happen!

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