

To: Dementia Friendly Illinois and Dementia Friendly America  
From: Dementia Friendly Westmont Advisory Task Force  
Date: February 13, 2020  
Subject: Submission for Dementia Friendly Recognition

The Dementia Friendly Westmont Task Force began in October of 2019 and is now submitting its application for community recognition. Listed below are the steps Westmont has initiated to meet the Readiness and Recognition Criteria.

### **Connecting Across Sectors**

The Dementia Friendly Westmont Task Force consists of individuals from a wide variety of sectors, which include: Government, Library, First Responders, Chamber of Commerce, Business, Park District, Service Organizations, Area Agency on Aging and Healthcare.

### **Inclusion and Leadership of People with Dementia**

Many members on the Task Force have been or are current caregivers for someone with dementia. When providing community presentations, members of the Task Force have been speaking with people living with dementia and their family members to discuss individual needs. Our task force will continue conversations with people with dementia and their caregivers and when possible, have them join the task force and or community events. The Task Force plans to have a panel of local people living with dementia at a half day event on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> (Westmont's annual Dementia Friendly Awareness Day).

### **Champion Organization and Coordination Capacity**

AgeGuide (formally Northeast Illinois Agency on Aging) is the champion organization for this application. The Dementia Friendly Westmont Task Force was initiated and organized by a staff member of Aspired Senior Living in Westmont and she has taken the lead in the community effort. A staff member of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center lives in Westmont and has also been an original member of the task force.

### **Adoption and Communication of Dementia Friendly Practices and Change Goals**

The Dementia Friendly Westmont Task Force has already initiated the following steps towards Dementia Friendly recognition:

- Discussed community needs and encouraged members of the various sectors to coordinate efforts;
- Offered monthly community talks on dementia at the Westmont Library;
- Is in the process of developing a resource guide for community members, first responders and businesses; and
- Village Proclamation adopted by the Village Board recognizing the Dementia Friendly Efforts and declaring November 7<sup>th</sup> as an annual Dementia Friendly Awareness day in Westmont.

Over the next year the Dementia Friendly Task Force plans the following to continue efforts:

- Quarterly Dementia Friends presentations focusing on various sectors: Government, Faith Communities, Park District, Library, Service Organizations, and Chamber;
- Monthly memory café at the library, 3rd Wednesday of the month;
- Promote the Premise Alert Program to "register" those with dementia to the local 911 dispatch;
- Provide Train the Trainer for Dementia Friendly Task Force members and will begin training of local businesses;
- Provide 3 ½ hours of dementia training to over 70 first responders;
- Feb 19th and Sept 16th Chamber of Commerce Open House booth to promote Dementia Friendly Westmont;
- Participation at larger Westmont senior community health fair promoting Dementia Friends and community efforts;
- May 2nd Chamber of Commerce - Senior Resource Committee health expo;
- Neighbors of Westmont Booklet: Dec/Jan edition, overview of Dementia Friendly;
- National Night Out/ Police August 4<sup>th</sup>;
- Fire Dept Open House/ fall-date TBD;
- Creation of Pocket Pal with dementia resources and poster to display in various community locations;
- Will host community event at library on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for Dementia Friendly Awareness Day;
- Will continue to host monthly community talks at library; and,
- Will develop Dementia Friendly Westmont page on village website; and

### **Progress Tracking and Sharing**

The Dementia Friendly Westmont Task Force will continue to meet quarterly. In these meetings, annual goals will be set and monitored. Efforts and achievements will be posted on the Dementia Friendly Westmont website.

Thank you for considering the application for Dementia Friendly recognition submitted from the Westmont Dementia Friendly Task Force.

### **One Paragraph Description for Public Dissemination**

Dementia Friendly Westmont seeks to raise awareness, reduce stigma, provide resources, and increase support for those living with dementia through education and coordination of resources. Westmont is a western Chicago suburb consisting of caring people who live in the community and/or work in businesses, healthcare, government, park district, the library, or as first responders. They are volunteers in Village events, service organizations and members faith communities. Dementia Friendly Westmont brings all these groups together with the common goal of creating supportive spaces for those with dementia.