

Chapter Headquarters

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April 1, 2023

The Rotary Club of Santa Barbara
Atten: Connie Green, Grant Committee Chair
P.O. Box 6268
Santa Barbara, CA 93160

Dear Connie Green,

We are grateful for the opportunity to submit a funding request to the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Foundation. We are writing to request \$10,000 for our Care & Support program to continue our specialized and meaningful work with Central Coast families impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

Since 1980, Alzheimer's Association, California Central Coast Chapter has made it our mission to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties. The educational and supportive services offered through our Care & Support Program provide a better quality of life for both the dangerously overworked caregiver and their loved one who has the disease.

In FY22, we provided 7,264 no-cost, evidence-based programs and services to over 2,600 Central Coast families. The comprehensive suite of programs and services includes:

- 24/7 Helpline - master's level clinicians are always available to provide reliable information, local referrals, guidance, and crisis support in over 200 languages.
- Care Consultations – individualized sessions with families to better understand and address their care and support needs
- Support Groups – we currently offer 37 locally-led support groups with over 51 meetings per month for caregivers, adults living with dementia, those who have lost someone to dementia and more.
- Education Classes – programs that cover topics ranging from disease education, caregiving strategies, community resource navigation and more.

The need for our services is imperative because there are 6.7 million Americans over the age of 65 living with the disease. Primary care physicians (PCPs) frequently make the initial diagnosis of dementia, and 55% of PCPs caring for people living with Alzheimer's report there are not enough dementia care specialists in their communities. However, only 4 in 10 Americans would talk to their doctor right away when experiencing early memory or cognitive loss. The Alzheimer's Association works to fill the gap by providing education programs as part of our

Care & Support program so that local communities are educated about the warning signs of dementia and supports families with their health care journey.

Early detection of the disease is more important now more than ever as there are new treatments available to slow the progression of the disease. We work closely with health systems and provide information and referrals to help families.

Funding from the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara will help enable us to provide the level of care that is needed for our community. Thank you very much for your consideration to support local families and further our mission. If you have questions or need additional information, I can be reached at 805.617.0226 or lmleonard@alz.org.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Leonard
Executive Director



Kathryn Westland
Program Director