



St. Paul Neighborhoods ACT on Alzheimer's

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Georgia Lane

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**ST. PAUL NEIGHBORHOODS ACTION COMMUNITY TEAM
Hosts Community Forum on Alzheimer's Readiness
November 21, 2013 2:30-5:00 P.M. at Carondelet Village: 525 Fairview Ave S. St. Paul**

St. Paul is one of nine communities across Minnesota whose citizens are working together to improve the lives of people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. ACT on Alzheimer's is partnering with these communities and offering tools to help them become ready for the increasing number of people who will have dementia as the population ages.

ACT on Alzheimer's is a statewide collaboration designed to prepare Minnesota for the budgetary, social, and personal impacts of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Under one of its goals, the group is helping communities become dementia capable. A dementia capable community is informed, safe, respects individuals with dementia and their families and caregivers, and provides options that support the best quality of life.

The St. Paul Neighborhoods Action Community Team (SPN ACT) is working towards dementia capability and is comprised of over 15 local organizations and a broad base of community members committed to preparing St. Paul for the complexities related to the disease. One in 9 people over the age of 65 has Alzheimer's disease or other dementia. Minnesota will experience a 15% increase in people living with Alzheimer's disease over the next 15 years. Communities must prepare for the spiraling needs related to dementia. In response to this urgent call the St. Paul Neighborhoods team will focus on enhancing dementia capability in the following 6 St. Paul neighborhoods: Highland Park, Mac-Groveland, West 7th, Summit Hill, Summit University, and Union Park. The implementation of the action plan will likely go beyond this area as opportunities arise.

"Alzheimer's Disease is our number one concern," said Roger, SPN ACT team member. "Beth, my wife of 44 years has been diagnosed with early symptoms. We are doing everything we can to help find the cure and bring awareness of dementia to the community. The ACT on Alzheimer's program is critical to mobilize the effort. It's for us, our kids and the generations to come."

St. Paul Neighborhoods team is using ACT on Alzheimer's tools to assess current strengths and gaps in meeting needs that result from Alzheimer's and other dementias, identify community goals and plan ways to respond and act together to achieve goals and measure progress.

Several key organizations are leading St. Paul's community action team, including Carondelet Village (convener), The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, Metropolitan Area Aging on Aging, The City of St. Paul, Ramsey County Human Services, Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey County, The Alzheimer's Association, Health East, Health Partners, Medica, Stratis Health, Lyngblomsten, Jewish Family Services, Keystone Senior Communities, and a wide variety of local community organizations, faith communities businesses and community members. "Quite often, our neighborhood-based senior programs are the first places seniors turn for support when experiencing the effects of aging," said Nancy Utoft, executive director, Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey County and SPN ACT team member. "Our staff and volunteers want to be fully prepared to meet the needs of those dealing with dementia. Participating in ACT on Alzheimer's helps us shape our response to this growing challenge in the way we work best: collaboratively."

Everyone with an interest in preparing St. Paul for Alzheimer's is invited to participate. Contact Georgia Lane, SPN ACT Coordinator at 651-695-5102 or glane@preshomes.org. More information about ACT on Alzheimer's is available at www.actonalz.org