

Alzheimer's Update

Alzheimer's News Impacting Law Enforcement

September 2001

2001 Law Enforcement Training

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are one of almost **200** law enforcement officers in Virginia who have completed the Alzheimer's/dementia training provided by DCJS.

The State Alzheimer's Training Committee has just completed 2001 law enforcement training in Charlottesville, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Salem, and Virginia Beach. Those trained in 2001 will be receiving, or may have already received, a follow-up call by one of our committee members inquiring about training you are doing in your area. We appreciate your help with our survey and value any suggestions or ideas you may have.

The committee is now working on developing curriculum for **jailer training** for 2002. Since you are already familiar with our training, we would like to hear your opinions of what you think we should include in the new curriculum. Please e-mail your suggestions to Juliana at jskone@dcjs.state.va.us.

Genetics and Alzheimer's Disease

Is Alzheimer's disease hereditary?

Individuals who have a parent with Alzheimer's have about twice the average risk. Having a brother or sister with the disease also doubles the risk. The likelihood of developing the disease continues to increase as the number of affected relatives rises, and having more than one affected sibling appears to cause the greatest increase in risk. This increased risk occurs because children and parents may share certain genes, the basic units of heredity that provide a blueprint for many biological and behavioral characteristics. Scientists have determined that certain genes increase the risk for developing Alzheimer's disease.

Tests are available that can determine whether a person carries these genes, but clinical testing for these genes is not recommended as a predictor for developing Alzheimer's disease. If you are interested in more information, e-mail me at jskone@dcjs.state.va.us. *Source: Alzheimer's Association Fact Sheet*

MEMORY WALK

Support your local chapter by getting a team together and walking!
Call your local chapter for details!

If you are receiving this bulletin in error, or if you would like to be dropped from the mailing list, please e-mail Juliana at jskone@dcjs.state.va.us.

Alzheimer's disease is **NOT** a mental illness, it is a physical disease that attacks the brain.

Almost half of all people over the age of 85 have Alzheimer's disease or some type of dementia.

Over 100,000 people in Virginia have Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Help Us By

Calling the local chapter in your area and letting them know where you are training.

We Can Help You By

Assisting in Training

Bringing materials to you or your classes

Finding speakers to help give your students a personal perspective on various issues.....

For more information about Alzheimer's disease, try www.alz.org.

Safe Return Program

Have you ever discovered a memory-impaired adult with no ID and spent your **entire shift** trying to find out where they live?

There is a program in the private sector that can help you out on the job. . .

Safe Return provides registrants and their families with a personalized bracelet and other identification materials, and stores contact information in a national computerized database. The program's nationwide toll-free 800 number, listed on the bracelet, is linked to a network of 17,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide. Each registrant will be assigned their own individual I.D. number by which they can be identified. Caregivers may also choose to wear an I.D. bracelet. This can alert others to look after the person with Alzheimer's if the caregiver becomes incapacitated.

As many as **70 percent** of individuals with Alzheimer's **will** wander at some point, often leaving home and **unable** to find their way back home.

Registration in the **Safe Return** program is relatively simple and inexpensive. Please remember to tell family members with whom you come into contact about the **Safe Return** program as well as the support the Alzheimer's chapters can provide to them. It can really make a difference to a family and may even save a life! The **Safe Return** Coordinator for Virginia is Jane Priest who can be reached at (866) 259-0042.

**Since 1993, more than 75,000 individuals have registered in the Safe Return Program.
Over 2,500 people are currently registered in Virginia.**

YOUR LOCAL ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS IN VIRGINIA

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Greater Richmond Chapter
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Glen Allen, VA 23060
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Southeastern Virginia Chapter
#20 Interstate Corp. Center, Ste. 233
Norfolk, VA 23502
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