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CarePartners to Assume Operation of Dementia Day Center

Houston's Only Program for Moderate-to-Late Dementia Gets New Home

HOUSTON, TX – CarePartners announced today that it will assume operations of the Dementia Day Center currently run by BakerRipley. BakerRipley, which had previously announced plans to close the center in late October, will continue to run the center through December 31, 2021. The two agencies are working together to ensure a seamless transition and continuity of care for the program's clients, their families, the employees, and volunteers.

"This is a perfect fit for our mission of supporting the caregivers for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. This is one of only two such facilities in the Greater Houston area, but it is the only one that serves those with moderate-to-late stages of dementia. Therefore, this program is crucial for supporting caregivers who have limited options for giving their loved ones a safe, nurturing environment each day," said **David Jewell**, chair of the CarePartners board.

"Funding is a necessity to make this transition a success, and thanks to the positive reception we've had from Houston's generous donor community and with the early support of lead funders like the William Stamps Farish Fund, who have already made a commitment, the board unanimously voted to proceed. And we hope the vote of confidence from these early, significant gifts will be a catalyst for additional support as we work toward closing the gap in our fundraising."

Dementia is one of the top ten chronic conditions around the globe, and it is the only one not preventable and not curable. Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death for Americans, a staggering figure when compared with mortality rates for those with cancer or heart disease. In the Houston region alone, an estimated 62,000 people are living with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

The Dementia Day Center ensures that individuals with dementia continue to have purpose and passion in their lives while providing their families with the support they need for one of the hardest jobs no one receives training for: providing 24/7 care for a spouse, parent, or other loved one who has developed dementia. The program was established in 1987 as Sheltering Arms and was the first dementia-specific adult day center program in Texas. Each year, the Center provides over 270,000 hours of care for 150 clients and 350 family caregivers.

“Studies show that 83% of dementia care is from a loved one’s family and friends, so it is absolutely vital to give families a way to refuel their stamina. This program is integral to its participants and their families, as well as to the Houston community,” said CarePartners president **Katie Scott, MPH**. “The center creates some breathing room for caregivers while at the same time encouraging a sense of community and purpose for the participants. Adding this program to CarePartners’ array of services strengthens our agency and provides a continuum of support for Houston’s dementia community.”

“We are happy that CarePartners has identified a path forward to continue this valuable service. For over a decade, BakerRipley has provided essential services at the Dementia Day Center. We are excited about how the Center is perfectly aligned with CarePartners’ mission and other current services, and we encourage the community to support this effort with their time and dollars,” said **Claudia Aguirre**, BakerRipley CEO.

In recent months, the CarePartners staff and board undertook an extensive due diligence process to develop the best plan for responsibly integrating the Dementia Day Center into its own operations while maintaining an impeccable, sustainable standard of care for clients and their families. Collaboration with the BakerRipley team will pave the way for a smooth transition. All employees are expected to retain their roles, and the program will continue to operate in the same building at 3838 Aberdeen Way, thus ensuring an undetectable transition for patients whose conditions can be worsened by disruptive change.

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About CarePartners

Founded in 1986, CarePartners is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization providing high-quality care for people with dementia, as well as their caregivers. The agency offers four nationally recognized programs across Greater Houston which support caregivers’ physical and mental health while accommodating their loved ones’ needs, interests, and abilities. CarePartners programs are offered at no cost to families and are run by a corps of committed, trained volunteers. Since its founding, CarePartners volunteers have delivered more than 3 million hours of free care representing \$83.7 million. Learn more and donate at [CarePartnersTexas.org](https://www.CarePartnersTexas.org).

About BakerRipley

BakerRipley brings resources, education, and connection to more than half a million people throughout Texas each year. For more than a century, BakerRipley has offered innovative solutions to uplift and empower underserved communities as they pursue opportunities that create new and better lives for themselves and their families. BakerRipley is a United Way Agency.

www.bakerripley.org #BakerRipley