

## *United Way in Waukesha County*

### *Caregiver Support Initiative*

*Implemented in 2008*

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**Community Issue:** Getting individuals connected to resources and services that fit their need for caregiving support of a family member or friend.

**Targeted Outcome:** Individuals in need of information related to caregiver support are connected to appropriate community resources for support.

**Targeted Geographic Area:** Waukesha County

**Issue.** The number of caregivers in our country is growing. In Wisconsin, there are over 500,000 caregivers that provide about 558 million hours of service each year. The average age of the caregiver taking care of someone over the age of 55 is 47 years old. Children of aging parents need to make changes at work in order to accommodate caregiving responsibilities. Approximately 10% of employed families change from full-time employment to part-time employment to be able to deal with their caregiving responsibilities.

**Major Partners:** Aging and Disability Resource Center of Waukesha County, Alzheimer's Association of SE Wisconsin, Boys and Girls Club's of Greater Milwaukee, Catholic Charities, Curative Care Network, Elmbrook Church, Humane Animal Welfare Society, Interfaith Senior Programs, Laureate Group, Lutheran Social Services, ProHealth Care Senior Health Center, Regency Senior Communities – Muskego, Southeastern Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging, The Caring Place and United Way in Waukesha County

**Intended Results:**

- Community has an increased awareness of the needs associated with caregiver support.
- Caregivers attain information for support in dealing with the care of others.
- Businesses change their behavior towards individuals who act as caregivers.

**Strategies:**

- Develop a global comprehensive collaborative plan to help families access the caregiver support network.
- Implement a Caregiver Council to serve as consultants to other caregivers and to provide a directory for respite purposes.
- Develop an internet website that focuses on information for the caregiver with links to various sites for information
- Implement workplace education programs for companies to help identify individuals as caregivers and get them in touch with resources and skills needed to balance their working activities with personal needs.