

## A Community Approach to Improved Dementia Care

### Case for Action:

- Dementia care is one of the most pressing issues in long-term care today
- The Alzheimer's Association recently reported that there are more than 5 million people in the U.S. with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia; 26.6 million people worldwide
- By mid-century those numbers are projected to more than triple
- Direct and indirect costs of dementia care currently amounts to more than \$148 billion annually

### Description:

- In 2002, the University of Rochester School of Nursing developed the Rochester Community Initiative, an innovative model program of support, empowerment, education, and recognition for caregivers. A key to the initiative's success is the network of academic nursing experts paired with care providers, facility administrators, and community stakeholders:
- Geriatric experts from the community and School of Nursing surveyed 120 long-term care facilities in Upstate New York to identify priority concerns
- A core advisory group, using these priorities, developed interdisciplinary, community needs-based workshops with resource guides, an email alert network to disseminate best practice information and news in the field, a website for sharing resources and facility innovations, and annual conferences with national experts
- Read more about this Initiative at [http://www.son.rochester.edu/son/global/news-and-events/global/news-and-events/Community\\_Initiative.pdf](http://www.son.rochester.edu/son/global/news-and-events/global/news-and-events/Community_Initiative.pdf)

### Partners/Funding:

School of Nursing  
John A. Hartford Foundation  
Nursing homes (NHs) in western New York  
Geriatric nurses in this community

### Outcomes:

- An estimated 800 providers from over 100 facilities caring for an estimated 10,000 residents with dementia have participated in the Initiative to date
- An Initiative website providing NHs with resources is available at - <http://www.dementianursing.org>
- Evidence-based practice has been infused into nursing home and dementia care settings to improve care practice
- Changes have occurred in NH practices such as (1) the consolidation of medication passes, increasing nursing availability to spend time with patients by 28% (see American Journal of Nursing article online [http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/JournalArticle.asp?Article\\_ID=615323](http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/JournalArticle.asp?Article_ID=615323)) and (2) plans to replicate the "High School Students Take Classes in a Nursing Home" Project (providing education in NHs for high school students at risk of not graduating) that have increased graduation rates as much as 69% in one local program (see American Journal of Nursing article online [http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/JournalArticle.asp?Article\\_ID=679840](http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/JournalArticle.asp?Article_ID=679840)).

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