

Caring For Those Who Care For Others

Informal Caregivers

1 in 3 American adults will provide eighty percent of all care during 2009. They will contribute more than \$375¹ billion in uncompensated services, a figure that far exceeds national spending for home health care and nursing home care. Without informal caregivers our healthcare system would simply collapse.

Despite the critical role informal caregivers play, there is no organized caregiver support structure, no formal caregiver training program, and no network to connect caregivers with the limited resources that are available. Informal caregivers are “invisible”; there is no database of caregivers; they are not listed with the patient’s records; and the insurance industry does not recognize their existence.

The caregiver problem will only grow worse as our population ages.

The Foundation For Caregivers is the only organization dedicated exclusively to funding caregiver research and nonprofit organizations providing services to ease the physical, financial, and emotional burden placed on individual caregivers and their families. The Foundation is an outgrowth of Tim Griswold's experience as caregiver for his wife in her losing battle with cancer. Our mission is ***to care for those who care for others.***

The Foundation envisions a world where informal caregivers are trained in basic caregiving skills, linked to online and community resources, and recognized for the contribution they make. We believe we have a moral obligation to care for those who care for others.

Programs

The Foundation sees its role as facilitator, rather than organizer of caregiver research and resources. We plan to provide the overarching vision and the funds needed to research as well as address caregiver issues. This plan is delineated in the following six programs. The first program has been completed; we will undertake the remaining programs as funds are available.



Nonprofit Support	Create a simplified funding mechanism for small to midsized nonprofits.
- COMPLETE -	<p>Rationale: Small to midsized charities are the lifeblood of our nonprofit system; they are the source of most new ideas, programs and street-level services. These organizations always struggle for funds, but are particularly hard hit during difficult economic times.</p> <p>A simplified, self-directed funding mechanism is needed, a tool that any nonprofit can use to generate the seed and operating funds needed to start and continue their service to the community.</p>
	<p>Action: The Foundation has developed and launched Weigh To Give™ the only "shared resource" fundraising system. This is a turnkey online weight-loss-a-thon that anyone can use to raise money for any IRS approved nonprofit. The only cost is a small registration fee.</p> <p>Weigh To Give is also a fundraising tool for the Foundation as we receive all registration fees.</p>

Caregiver Education	Fund caregiver training projects targeting the early phase of the caregiving lifecycle.
Rationale:	When one becomes a caregiver, training, if any, is generally provided by the care receiver’s healthcare professional. Healthcare professionals typically have no training tools and receive no compensation for caregiver training. As a consequence the quality of training varies, with most caregivers receiving no training at all. Untrained caregivers are forced to waste time and energy reinventing what millions have already

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	learned. This approach is inefficient, ineffective in terms of both cost and quality of care, and unnecessarily stressful.
Action:	An RFP will be issued and funded to develop early " Best Practices " training designed to improve efficiency and quality of care while lowering caregiver costs and stress.

Caregiver Registry	Fund the development of a Caregiver Registry to provide a link between community resources and those needing support. A Caregiver Registry is also vital for researchers.
Rationale:	Most communities and many faith-based organizations offer programs to assist informal caregivers. Unfortunately there is no mechanism to connect the caregiver to these programs. While some programs can be found on the internet, not all caregivers have access and even with access, finding local resources can be challenging. With no database, researchers must base their work on small samplings and providing solutions is difficult.
Action:	An RFP will be issued and funded to construct and operate a Registry that allows caregivers to connect and network with other caregivers and community resources.

Caregiver Research	Fund caregiver research.
Rationale:	We don't know what we don't know. Funding street-level programs and amalgamating the best solutions in existence today are important steps; these are no substitute for scientific inquiry and analysis conducted by qualified institutions. Caregiver research is therefore essential to our long term strategy.
Action:	The Foundation will provide Grant funding for caregiver research. As approaches and programs are identified, the Foundation will issue RFPs and provide funding to implement these programs.

International Forum	Fund the development and ongoing operation of an international forum to exchange ideas and practices, and to facilitate cross-country and cross-organization working groups to develop new approaches.
Rationale:	The informal caregiving problem is not limited to the United States; in fact most developed countries are experiencing similar problems. Many countries, Australia for example, have public sector and private sector programs underway. Time and expenses can be saved by leveraging the knowledge gained in these various programs.
Action:	The Foundation will organize and host a forum where policies, practices, and results can be shared, researched and expanded.

Expansion	The Foundation plans to expand to additional countries as soon as practical.
Rationale:	Many countries have similar caregiver problems and the Foundation has received a number of requests to deploy our structure and fundraising model to support caregiver research and nonprofit programs in those countries.
Action:	As soon as practical, the Foundation will expand to additional countries.

Funding

The Foundation is seeking partners to provide funds and other resources to pursue these programs. Additional information can be found online at www.ffcg.org and www.weightogive.org or by contacting Tim Griswold, Executive Director and Founder at 1-703-327-1206 or tgriswold@ffcg.org.

¹ Valuing the Invaluable: The Economic Value of Informal Caregiving. AARP 2008 update