

Heroes in the fight against Alzheimer's



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## **Heroes in the Fight Against Alzheimer's**

**Alzheimer's disease has joined people from different walks of life into a group who experience the disease. Contributions are being made by those who are famous and those in a unique group who are a risk for the disease, people with Down's syndrome.**

**In 1983, President Ronald Reagan designated November as [National Alzheimer's Awareness Month](#). Reagan himself would later succumb to the disease, but Alzheimer's Awareness Month continues.**

**Six years after the end of his presidency, Ronald Reagan announced to the American public that he was "one of the**

millions of Americans who will be afflicted with Alzheimer's disease." He said that his public disclosure was intended to raise public awareness about the disease.

Other celebrities like Glen Campbell and Rita Hayworth have heightened understanding of the illness and reduced the stigma of Alzheimer's patients by publicly announcing their own illnesses.

Country singer and guitarist, Glen Campbell, announced in 2011 that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Since then, he completed his "Goodbye Tour,". Campbell has over 50 years in the music business and on television, and landed a historical win of four Grammy's in 1967.

Campbell and his wife Kim (his primary caregiver) and the rest of their family have openly shared the singer's struggle with Alzheimer's in an effort to raise awareness about the disease. The 2014 documentary "Glen Campbell: I'll be Me" follows the singer and his family on his farewell tour. The closing song in the film, "I'm Not Gonna Miss You," about his experience with Alzheimer's earned the musician an Oscar nomination for Best Song (see the lyrics below).

Hayworth was an American film star who rose to prominence in the 1940s. Despite fairly obvious signs of the illness, Rita Hayworth was not correctly diagnosed for several years. After eventually learning the cause of her memory loss, Hayworth became the "face of Alzheimer's disease" during the 1980s. The Alzheimer's Association continues to hold its annual Rita

## **Hayworth Gala.**

**When researchers at the University of California, San Diego wanted to study an experimental Alzheimer's drug last year, they sought help from an unlikely group: people with Down syndrome.**

**Alzheimer's researchers are increasingly interested in people with Down's syndrome because "people with Down syndrome represent the world's largest population of individuals predisposed to getting Alzheimer's disease," says [Michael Rafii](#), director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at UCSD.**

**Down syndrome is a genetic disorder that's best known for causing intellectual disability. But it also seems to put people at risk for getting Alzheimer's. "By the age of 40, 100 percent of all individuals with Down syndrome have the pathology of Alzheimer's in their brain," Rafii says.**

**Down syndrome is caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21. And one of the genes on chromosome 21 happens to control the production of amyloid, the substance that forms the sticky plaques associated with Alzheimer's.**

**Because their bodies produce extra amyloid, most people with Down syndrome develop problems with thinking and memory by the time they reach 60.**

**Scientists are working hard to understand why some people with Down syndrome develop dementia while others do not. They want to know how Alzheimer's disease begins and progresses, so they can develop drugs or other treatments that can stop,**

**delay, or even prevent the disease process.**

**Research in this area includes:**

- Basic studies to improve our understanding of the genetic and biological causes of brain abnormalities that lead to Alzheimer's
- Observational research to measure cognitive changes in people over time
- Studies of biomarkers (biological signs of disease), brain scans, and other tests that may help diagnose Alzheimer's—even before symptoms appear—and show brain changes as people with Down syndrome age
- Clinical trials to test treatments for dementia in adults with Down syndrome

Public perceptions have been influenced by people publicly talking about their experience with Alzheimer's disease. It reduces the stigma of the disease especially when well-known people share their experiences. Research into Alzheimer's disease is being influenced by people with Down's syndrome. This research could help all people with Alzheimer's disease including those with Down's syndrome.

**I Am Not Gonna Miss You**

I'm still here, but yet I'm gone

I don't play guitar or sing my songs

They never defined who I am  
The man that loves you 'til the end

You're the last person I will love  
You're the last face I will recall  
And best of all, I'm not gonna miss you  
Not gonna miss you

I'm never gonna hold you like I did  
Or say I love you to the kids  
You're never gonna see it in my eyes  
It's not gonna hurt me when you cry

I'm never gonna know what you go through  
All the things I say or do  
All the hurt and all the pain  
One thing selfishly remains

I'm not gonna miss you  
I'm not gonna miss you

Songwriters: Glen Campbell / Julian Raymond

Adapted from National Institute on Aging Website & Senior Living Blog  
by Jeff Anderson

## **TRIAD Council of Northwest Ohio**

The TRIAD Council of Northwest Ohio seeks to establish an effective partnership between older adults, senior service providers and law enforcement agencies to impact the safety and quality of life for older adults.

The mission of TRIAD Council of Northwest Ohio is to reduce crime against seniors and to prevent victimization of older adults by means of planning, cooperative strategies, education and supportive services.

The goals of TRIAD include:

1. To enhance the delivery of law enforcement and related human services to older adults.
2. To educate older adults about crime prevention and safety education.
3. To identify and address the crime-related problems of older adults.
4. To be an active voice in regard to crime prevention and safety education.

TRIAD Council sponsors Senior Safety Workshops in the Northwest Ohio area.

Workshop topics include:

- Cons & Scams
- Fire Safety & Prevention
- Predatory Lending
- Telemarketing Fraud
- Identity Theft
- Consumer Fraud
- Neighborhood Safety

Members of TRIAD Council include:

- AARP
- Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
- Alzheimer's Association, *NWO Chapter*
- American Red Cross, *Greater Toledo Area Chapter*
- Area Office on Aging of NWO, Inc, *RSVP Program*
- Attorney General, State of Ohio
- Better Business Bureau
- Eleanor Kahle Foundation
- Lucas County Job & Family Services, *Adult Protective Services*
- Lucas County Prosecutor's Office
- Lucas County Sheriff's Office
- Ohio Consumers' Counsel
- Social Security Administration
- Sylvania Township Police Department
- TARTA
- Toledo Department of Fire & Rescue
- Toledo Police Department
- Wood County Sheriff's Office
- Area senior citizens
- Area senior service providers

TRIAD Council can be reached at the Area Office on Aging of NWO, Inc.

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Toledo, Ohio 43609

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Fax: 419-3827099

[www.areaofficeonaging.com](http://www.areaofficeonaging.com)

**Area Office on Aging Spring Fling Scheduled May 15, 2018**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

May 15th 10 am -2 pm  
Sylvania Tam-O-Shanter,  
7060 W. Sylvania Ave,  
Sylvania, Ohio

The Area Office on Aging prepares to welcome about 2,000 people age 60 and over as well as over 90 exhibitors to its May 15th Spring Fling event. Admission to the event is free. The boxed lunch is \$5 for those ages 60 and over. Lunch tickets can be purchased in advance at the Area Office on Aging, 2155 Arlington Ave. in Toledo and at area senior centers. Lunch tickets may also be purchased at the event. The exhibitors will have information about the programs, products and services available to those aged 60 and over. Various health screenings will also be part of the event. There will also be various health and wellness demonstrations throughout the event. This is the 40th year for this event. Those groups that want to be a part of the event and others, who would like additional information about the event, can call the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624.





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**Contributions to this Newsletter comes from:**

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