



My Story

In March of 2014, my grandmother passed away after a long battle with Dementia and Alzheimer's. Through the many years that we watched my grandmother slowly fade away mentally and physically, I found myself completely unaware and unequipped to deal with what was happening. Watching someone who you've loved and shared so many memories with forget who you are is something that's difficult to describe in words. What was even worse, was watching them forget who they are.

What I saw:

1

It started with her repeating the same things. Then every couple days. Then repeating them to you every couple hours and finally repeating them to you minutes after she had spoken them to you

3

My grandfather began to have trouble at home with her forgetting everyday things. She had her license taken away and my family began to start looking into what may be going on with her mentally.

5

Her health continued to diminish, both mentally and physically. She was moved into a care facility and slowly lost all of her motor functions. She lived in the facility for over a year and finally passed when she was no longer to breathe or eat on her own

My Goal:

1

Better Understand the Disease of Dementia and Alzheimer's

2

Bring Education and Awareness to the Disease

3

Look at creating a way for people to experience a day in the life of a patient

My goal on this journey is a multi-directional experience to accomplish the following

1

Better understand the disease of Dementia and Alzheimer's

- Point of view of a Care Giver
- Point of view of a Family Member
- Point of view of the Patient

2

Bring awareness and education about the disease

- Bring a better understanding to myself and my immediate family
- Educate other about ways to spot the warning signs and possibly look at creating a way for people to experience a day in the life of a patient.

3

Bring awareness to my co-workers and local community

What I thought:

1

That it was part of her old age and just being forgetful. I thought it was just a minor thing that was just part of life. I did not think it meant anything larger was going on with her.

2

I believed my family had it under control and was well equipped to handle what was going on. I continued to live my life thinking it was something she would get help with, whether it be medication or some other means. I did not think her brain was deteriorating.

4

At this point, I understood that she had Alzheimer's and her that way. It was the first time that she didn't recognize who I was, that I felt like she wasn't my grandmother anymore. I distanced myself from the situation and did not see before she passed away.

6

I feel the best way to understand how someone feels is to walk a mile in their shoes. I am proposing to create a way for someone to experience a day in the life of a person with Alzheimer's. I would use feedback on what questions I should ask and what seminars I should attend at the convention. The proposed questions would be asked of doctor's and patients at the convention and presented back to the firm when I return.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS THE 6TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES

5 MILLION AMERICANS ARE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S

BY 2050, THIS NUMBER COULD RISE AS HIGH AS 16 MILLION

EVERY 66 SECONDS

someone in the United States develops the disease

35% of caregivers for people with Alzheimer's or another dementia report that their health has gotten worse due to care responsibilities compared to 19% of caregivers for older people without dementia

↑

In 2017, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$259 billion
By 2050, these costs could rise as high as \$1.1 TRILLION

1 IN 3

seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia

↑

Since 2000, deaths from heart disease have decreased by 14% while deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased by 89%

IT KILLS MORE THAN

breast cancer and prostate cancer COMBINED

15 MILLION AMERICANS

provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias

IN 2016

these caregivers provided an estimated 18.2 BILLION HOURS of care valued at over \$230 BILLION

More than 15 million

Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

89%

Increase in deaths due to Alzheimer's between 2000 and 2014. Deaths from Alzheimer's have nearly doubled during this period while those from heart disease - the leading cause of death - have declined

↑

In 2017, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$259 billion
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1 IN 10

people age 65 and older has Alzheimer's disease

↑

Since 2000, deaths from heart disease have decreased by 14% while deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased by 89%

\$259 billion

2017 marks the first time total payments for caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementias will surpass a quarter of a trillion dollars

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What: Alzheimer's Educational and understanding Journey

When: July 22-26 2018

Where: Chicago, Illinois

Why?: To research and understand the disease of dementia and Alzheimer's from all perspectives

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