

- 216 law enforcement officers received a full day of dementia education and training in how to better respond.
- DFFW continues to advance our connections in the community, which helps to provide the presenters for our virtual programming. Some of our new partnership include Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Fort Worth Opera, and Urban Yoga Studio.
- At least a dozen families seeking resources and referrals have been provided in excess of 3 hours each in assistance with information and tools to help in the decision making for their loved ones.

PARTNERSHIPS

- DFFW continues to advance our connections in the community, which helps to provide the presenters for our virtual programming. Some of our new partnership include Urban Yoga Studio, Fort Worth Opera, and Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.
- The Texas Network of Dementia Friendly communities continues to grow. DFFW will offer consultation services to cities desiring to join the dementia friendly movement. Funds for this work will be made available to DFFW through the Federal Dementia Capable Grant administered by NCTCOG for the next three years.
- The Fort Worth Report featured DFFW and Don and Myra Gasser in a recent article. See the full article at bit.ly/3rMx6X7. Don and Myra Gasser serve on our Board and they regularly participate in our virtual programs because of his dementia diagnosis. The article highlights several community partners and the benefits of our virtual programs.
- DFFW has partnered with Texas Health Resources to offer a program designed for those at risk of developing dementia. This new program, “Let’s Get Together — A Social Club for Seniors” is launching in January of 2022.

FUNDING

- Received contributions from Continuity of Care and North Texas Giving Day.
- Funding from the United Way/Area Agency on Aging enabled us to continue the “Activities for People Living at Home with Dementia” program throughout the year.
- Increased gifts from individuals and organizations and major gifts from First United Methodist Church have positioned DFFW to begin 2022 stronger than ever!
- Grant funding has been awarded from AeroCARES by Lockheed Martin Employees, Hester Stuart Christian Charitable Trust, and Burlington Stores Foundation. This funding has allowed us to add a part time staff

person who facilitates of our “Activities for People Living at Home with Dementia” program.

- The Fort Worth Opera presented a seven-week series of concerts for our virtual activities program with funding in part by a special grant from the Texas Commission of the Arts. This impactful new series is an extension of Fort Worth Opera’s special community programming.
- Funds through a Federal Dementia Capable Grant, awarded in 2021 and facilitated by North Central Texas Council of Governments will enable us to launch new programs in 2022.
- Additional grant opportunities are being aggressively pursued to enable expansion of staff and programming for 2022.

As we look back on 2021, we are grateful for all those who joined our virtual programs and for those who helped to fund these programs. We are grateful for each person and organization who has partnered with us through the provision of in-kind services, by volunteering or by making financial contributions. Our work continues to make a difference for those living with dementia because YOU believe in the work of Dementia Friendly Fort Worth!

The pandemic highlighted the “digital divide” that limits access to programs and services available to persons in minority, rural and underserved communities. DFFW is actively seeking funding to purchase senior friendly devices, with connectivity, to be distributed to persons in this target audience. These devices will be owned and managed by DFFW as a fleet operation. We will enroll interested persons in our programs, and will provide follow-up and support through the use of volunteers. The cost of this project is challenging and requires financial support — will you help? For less than \$100 per month, you can fully fund a device for one year! **Scan the QR code below to schedule your gift today.**



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Dementia Friendly Fort Worth 2021

Over 8,000 People Served

Dementia Friendly Chapel

Daily Activity Programs

Law Enforcement and Healthcare Dementia Training

Caregiver Resources and Referrals

Dementia Friendly Fort Worth (DFFW) has impacted Fort Worth, Tarrant County and beyond in 2021 with the help of grants, monthly support, and donations from those who have been impacted by dementia.

DFFW brings awareness and education to all sectors of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Our goal is to enhance the lives of those living with the disease and to give families hope for a better tomorrow.

A significant part of our work in 2021 included work with the North Central Texas Council of Governments — Regional Police Academy. **The challenge is that for persons with dementia, a personal encounter with first responders is often a frightening and dehumanizing experience.** A lack of understanding about dementia and empathy for persons with dementia by first responders often results in a negative outcome. In order to address these challenges law enforcement and first responders should understand how frightening this interaction can be, be educated about dementia and develop empathy toward these persons. DFFW has met this challenge by offering dementia education to 216 law enforcement officers, new recruits and tenured. Dementia Live® is an integral part of this training and is paired with dementia education including statistics, signs & symptoms, learning to recognize signs of dementia, as well as better ways for law enforcement to interact with persons with dementia. Preliminary results indicate an overall improvement in their confidence to recognize dementia and empathize when relating to persons with dementia. **The Dementia Live experience has helped them to experience empathy for people living with dementia.**

Here are a few testimonials from some of those who participated in this education:



“Great class! I feel a little more confident talking about dementia and talking to someone with dementia. I have a better understanding about it. The instructors were great, very knowledgeable and helpful.”

“Dementia Live was humbling in understanding people with dementia.”

“This was one of the most organized and prepared classes we have had . . . I thought there was a perfect balance between staying optimistic and then understanding the severity of the subject.”

“We had family with Alzheimer’s but being able to know more about dementia is amazing.”

As reported last year, our work changed as a result of the impact of COVID-19. The changes to virtual programs have strengthened our ability to improve the lives of those living with dementia. This virtual program, initially thought to be temporary, has become standard offerings of DFFW.

In addition to continuing the virtual activity program, DFFW made plans to launch two additional programs, the first being an afternoon time slot of the existing program. The second will be a new program for those who are at risk for developing dementia due to anxiety, boredom, depression, loneliness, and social isolation. This program will be called “Let’s Get Together — A Social Club for Seniors” and will be offered five days per week at 11:30 am each day. It will follow a similar format as the existing program. These programs launch in January of 2022.

We are grateful for the opportunity to host these virtual programs! Please take a few moments to watch one of the recorded sessions on Youtube at bit.ly/2F6Drbj.

Here are some highlights of 2021:

PROGRAMS

- Activities for People Living with Dementia, is a program to combat loneliness and isolation, offered five mornings a week. During 2021, 260 live Zoom programs were offered with 191 sessions recorded and posted on Youtube. These programs served over 5,100 individuals.
 - 10 companies and organizations have provided presenters for our Activities Program, and many of them have partnered with us for more than 25 sessions.
 - The concept of “Activities for People Living with Dementia” program has been shared at the Texas Assisted Living Association annual conference and the Aging In Texas Conference.
 - Dementia Friendly Chapel is “live-streamed” twice per week and recorded programs are available on YouTube.
- 5th Street Café — A Dementia friendly Social Club continued to be virtual and provides a relaxed atmosphere for people with dementia to socialize and have meaningful interactions. This group met over 45 times in 2021.
- Weekly Sing-along for Christian Care Fort Worth — Assisted Living and Memory Care. DFFW provided 48 sessions serving over 575 individuals.
- Dementia Friendly Business Certifications: This effort was slowed as a result of the pandemic, but we were able to add a few additional businesses and expect to certify many more in 2022.
- Education
 - Advance Care Planning events, held at Christian Care Communities Fort Worth Campus, served 20 individuals.
 - “Ensuring a Human Rights based Approach to Dementia” was offered at Healthy Lives Matter and at Tarrant Area Gerontological Society’s — lunch & learn event for professionals.
 - Dementia Live® Experience was provided at four different education events for healthcare personnel, training over 70 individuals. These included Americare Home Care, JPS Physician Residents, as well as other assisted living, and home care staff.