

**The South Side community of Hyde Park has become Chicago's first neighborhood to be designated as a *Dementia Friendly* community by a leading advocacy agency. The designation was announced jointly by [Chicago Hyde Park Village](#), [SHARE Network](#) and [The Memory Center](#) at [University of Chicago Medicine](#), which coordinated together on the project.**

In the United States, more than 5 million Americans and 17 million caregivers are affected by or directly impacted by dementia, according to [Dementia Friendly America](#), a group that seeks to raise awareness about the impact of dementia on communities. Locally, according to a 2019 Chicago Public Health Department report, nearly 320,000 adults aged 65 and above were estimated to be living in the City of Chicago, with nearly 85,000 living alone (based on 2016 census data). In the same report, 20% of older respondents reported difficulty in performing errands alone and cited "mental problems" as one of their three main challenges. The report also stated that the mortality rate due to Alzheimer's Disease was estimated at 207.3/100,000 older adults in Chicago, with rates higher among older women than among older men. Our community is stepping up to take action to address these challenges. No other community in Chicago has earned an official designation as a [Dementia Friendly](#) community from Dementia Friendly America.

To achieve this, Chicago Hyde Park Village, The Memory Center and the SHARE Network at UChicago Medicine collaborated to bring the Dementia Friendly initiative to the attention of other stakeholders in the Hyde Park community on Chicago's South Side. The three entities previously partnered to bring dementia-friendly events to Chicagoland and have collectively been providing dementia care programming throughout the neighborhood over the last several years. They are also the team behind [the first dementia friendly Chicago river cruise](#), which gave exclusive access for those with diagnosed memory loss and their care partners a chance to enjoy riverfront Chicago skyline views with others that share common experiences.

In order to be designated as a Dementia Friendly community, the groups had to convene a diverse team with a minimum of 3 sectors represented, demonstrate that people living with dementia are included and have leadership roles in the initiative as well as adopt and communicate dementia friendly practices and change goals.

A number of Hyde Park organizations, scientists and elected officials worked together to support the dementia friendly effort, which ensures residents of the South Side are equipped with adequate information, training, and resources to support people living with dementia, their families and their caregivers. Generous funding for this initiative is being provided by the SHARE Network at UChicago Medicine.

**Organizations involved:**

- Chicago Hyde Park Village
- Chicago Public Library (Blackstone)
- Hyde Park Art Center
- Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce
- Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference
- Hyde Park & Kenwood Interfaith Council
- The Memory Center at UChicago Medicine
- Montgomery Place
- John F. Disterhoft, Ph.D. (Alzheimer's disease Center, Northwestern University)
- SECC (South East Chicago Commission)
- SHARE (Supporting Healthy Aging Resources & Education) Network
- The University of Chicago Medicine, Section of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

**Elected officials involved:**

- Hon. Leslie A. Hairston (5th Ward)
- Hon. Sophia D. King (4th Ward)
- Hon. Robert Peters (IL Sen., 13th District)
- Hon. Toni Preckwinkle (Board President, Cook County)
- Hon. Curtis J. Tarver II (IL Rep., 25th District)

Neighbors can learn more about the Dementia Friendly designation during a series of upcoming activities that will promote the effort. These include:

- A virtual community meeting to formally introduce the **Dementia Friendly Hyde Park** initiative to residents of Hyde Park, Kenwood, Woodlawn and other nearby communities
- Educational opportunities for individuals and sector-specific training (banking, retail business, faith communities, etc.) in order to change the way people think, act, and talk about dementia
- Volunteer recruitment and training, dissemination of dementia-related info to the community, and identification of service gaps
- Connections between volunteers and resources and people impacted by dementia and their caregivers in order to increase their quality of life

CHICAGO  
HYDE PARK  
VILLAGE



**SHARE  
NETWORK**

Supporting Healthy Aging Resources & Education



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**  
MEDICINE

Center for Comprehensive  
Care and Research  
on Memory Disorders



**Dementia  
Friendly  
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For more info contact Dorothy Pytel at 773-441-8457 or [dorothy.pytel@chpv.org](mailto:dorothy.pytel@chpv.org).

To find out more about Dementia Friendly Hyde Park, click [here](#).

Click here to learn more about: [CHPV](#) | [The UChicago Memory Center](#) | [SHARE Network](#)