



Help Us Bring OASIS/PALS Back

By Michelle DiBudo, Executive Director of VCRC



Michelle DiBudo

It is my pleasure to reintroduce you to our OASIS/PALS Adult Day Program. OASIS/PALS is a social, day program designed for people with early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease or other mild cognitive impairments. OASIS/PALS provides personal care for dependent adults in a supervised, protective and congregate setting during some portion of the day. This program allows them to do something meaningful alongside friends, with stimulating, recreational and therapeutic activities.

In December 2019, we finally moved our OASIS/PALS Adult Day Program to our beautiful new building at the corner of Fresno and Barstow. The families were excited to be in a better area in a state-of-the-art building with the staff that they trusted and leaned on to care for their loved ones with dementia. We were only in our new building for less than four months when in March 2020 we had to close due to COVID-19. The facility was then used to house staff that performed virtual classes for those with dementia in addition to making up to ninety calls a week to check in with our seniors.

In July 2021 we attempted to reopen but then closed again in October due to more hurdles. We thought this to be a permanent change and we packed things up without much hope.

Statistically, there are over 35,000 families experiencing Alzheimer's or some form of dementia in their own home right now in the Fresno and Madera counties alone. Where will these families go? How will their loved one's last years be defined? At this stage in their lives, they should still be enjoying life no matter what their situation is.

Then, just as Spring promotes hope and new life, we too experienced a new hope and were allowed to keep our building for six months while waiting out another outbreak of COVID-19. There is still hope that we can re-open and continue to offer a valuable place for our families to seek an oasis in this part of their life's journey.

We are reaching out to you — our community — for financial support to reopen our program. We can't just let this program go without a fight. It has been serving our community for over 30 years and 17 years under Valley Caregiver Resource Center.



In addition, the Housing and Community Development Division within the City of Fresno has allocated part of their funding to support the OASIS program, but public comment is much needed up until April 19, 2022.

Please email your comments to mdibudo@valleycrc.org or call 559-224-9154. Make the difference and consider donating today.

OUR MISSION

Valley Caregiver Resource Center offers a comprehensive array of services designed to assist elders and their families master the challenges that accompany the aging process. As long-standing advocates and collaborators in preserving the health and quality of life of others, our aim is to promote personal and community well-being.

MEDICARE



Medicare Card Scam...Watch Out!

By Jennifer Webb, HICAP Program Manager

Have you received a call from someone offering a new plastic Medicare card with a microchip? You are not alone! This is the latest Medicare card fraud trend and it is spreading like wildfire. Why not, it makes sense...we all have a wallet filled with plastic, microchipped cards.

The last change that Medicare made to the card was in 2018 and it is safe to say there has not been one since. To help protect Medicare beneficiaries from fraud and identity theft, social security numbers were replaced with random numbers. Since then, scammers have moved on to trying to convince victims that Medicare is switching from paper cards to plastic cards with chips. Again, that has not happened. However, scammers have apparently fired it up again, as a lot of people are reporting getting this type of call nationally.

These calls are designed to con victims into revealing their Medicare number, which can lead to identity theft and Medicare Fraud. If you feel you may have been victimized by this scam or would like to learn more call your local Senior Medicare Patrol Liaisons at HICAP (559) 224-9117. We are available Monday -Friday from 8am-5pm. Our HICAP, SMP Liaisons are trained to help Medicare beneficiaries prevent, detect, and report Medicare Fraud. 1

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