

How Visiting Angels Can Support Seniors Living with Dementia

If you have an aging loved one who is living with Alzheimer's Disease or another type of dementia, you know firsthand that the disease affects the senior and their support system. According to the <u>Alzheimer's Association</u>, 15 million people provide unpaid care for people living with some type of dementia. In 2016 alone, that unpaid care totaled more than 18 billion hours. What is happening during that unpaid care time? A little bit of everything – reminders, grocery store runs, meal preparation, socialization, help with dressing or bathing.



Most family members or close friends are happy to provide some type of help to a senior living with dementia, but it isn't always that easy. In fact, those caring for someone living with dementia report getting sick themselves. The <u>Alzheimer's Association</u> reports that 35% of friends or family that help with someone living with dementia have increased health problems of their own.

The truth is – you and your family cannot do this on your own while still remaining

healthy and a functioning unit. You need help from experienced caregivers who can come into any environment that the senior calls home. That's where <u>Visiting Angels</u> comes in.

We help with the tasks

One of the best ways we can assist your loved one and family is by completing tasks. Our caregivers are experienced and happy to help with anything from hygiene tasks, such as showering and toileting, to meal preparation or even transportation to and from doctor appointments. We know that connecting with each senior we serve requires a unique approach, and we strive to gain the trust and confidence of our client and their family members.

We help with the engagement

Isolation for seniors living with dementia can be especially devastating, accelerating the progression of the disease and contributing to feelings of depression or anxiety. We also know that family members are incredibly busy with work and family obligations, and simply unable to visit with their

aging loved one a few hours each day. Our Angels can stand in that gap, providing a friendly face and healthy socialization for seniors living with dementia. Whether it is for a standing coffee date or for a lift to the local park to have lunch and watch the birds, our caregivers guide the conversation through reminiscence activities and a caring spirit that our clients love.

We help with the stress

Most importantly, the presence of our caregivers allows for less stress and more peace of mind. Family members can take a breath knowing that their loved one is safe and accounted for, while seniors living with dementia can find some relief knowing that an Angel is there to sit with them through confusing or anxious times. Whether you choose to use our services for respite care while you go on vacation or take a break, or whether you choose to set a consistent schedule of services for your loved one, we are honored to come alongside your family during this time.

Ready to read more about senior issues that pertain to you or your loved one? Curious about other senior topics and challenges? <u>Check out our Family Resource Center</u> for insightful articles, caregiver tips and other important resources.

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