



NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFCA PROGRAM HELPS CAREGIVERS EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Kensington, MD -- The National Family Caregiver's Association (NFCA) is expanding its innovative program to help family caregivers communicate effectively with healthcare professionals. Family caregivers provide over 80 percent of all home care services, yet receive no formal training or support in their roles. This program provides family caregivers with the skills and tools they need to help their loved ones get better care.

NFCA is now accepting applications for an invitation-only facilitator training conference to be held on August 14-15, 2003 in Denver, Colorado. An application can be found on NFCA's website

<http://www.nfcacares.org/>.

The curriculum teaches trainers to deliver a three-hour workshop for family caregivers, focused on effective communications techniques. The workshop utilizes role-playing to help caregivers practice what they are learning in real life situations such as a doctor's office or emergency room. Newly trained leaders return to their communities to conduct workshops with family caregivers using the manual designed specifically for the trainers and integrated with the caregiver curriculum and support tools guide. The expansion was made possible by a grant from the Administration on Aging and the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation. The National Alliance for Caregiving has provided assistance to NFCA in the development of the project.

"This program helps family caregivers feel more confident and capable when serving as the voice for a chronically ill, aged or disabled loved one," said Ms. Suzanne Mintz, President and Co-founder of NFCA. "It helps them be better advocates for their own needs as well."

The National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) is a grassroots organization created to enable, educate, support, and speak up for the millions of Americans who care for a chronically ill, aged, or disabled loved ones. NFCA reaches across the boundaries of different diagnoses, different relationships and different life stages to address the common needs and concerns of all family caregivers. It is the one place that all family caregivers can call “home.”

For more information on Communicating Effectively With Healthcare Professionals, contact NFCA at 800/896-3650 or info@nfcacares.org

If you represent an organization interested in hosting a Communicating Effectively With Healthcare Professionals workshop for family caregivers in your area and want to send a staff member to a training session, contact the project director, John Paul Marosy, at jpmarosy@nfcacares.org. The application is also available online at <http://www.nfcacares.org/>.

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