

For Immediate Release

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SC Elks Association awards \$40,000 to Alzheimer's Association for respite funds to be distributed by Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging

(Columbia, SC)-On Thursday, August 16th, 2018, South Carolina Elks Association presented \$40,000 to the Alzheimer's Association South Carolina Chapter to help support family caregivers who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. The SC Elks have supported the cause of Alzheimer's caregivers for the last twenty years, raising funds through their lodges across the state through their State Major Project.

This generous contribution from the SC Elks Association was accepted by Director Darryl Broome of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging and Sam Wiley, Vice President of Programs for the Alzheimer's Association South Carolina Chapter, as well as other staff members. Funds will be distributed by the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, which already partners with the Alzheimer's Association to administer the state-funded Alzheimer's Caregiver Respite Program.

The SC Elks Association adopted Alzheimer's as its State Major Project in 1997, with the effort being championed by the late Charles "Buddy" Sirisky. Mr. Sirisky's wife, Margie Sirisky, along with others from the SC Elks Association leadership joined to present the check at the State House in the Lieutenant Governor's suite. This significant contribution through the SC Elks Charitable Trust Perpetual Fund will help family caregivers access much-needed provide care and support.

89,000 South Carolinians have Alzheimer's, posing a unique challenge to some 309,000 family caregivers in the state. Caregiving becomes increasingly intensive as individuals with dementia progress through memory loss, mood and behavior changes, problems with rational thinking and difficulty speaking, swallowing and walking. The Alzheimer's Caregiver Respite Program provides families with short-term assistance to arrange paid care for a loved one with dementia, granting family caregivers the rare opportunity to take a break and take care of their own mental and physical health.

To learn more about respite care services or other resources available for families facing Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit alz.org/sc.

Alzheimer's Association®

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. Visit alz.org® or call 800.272.3900.