



Respite Awareness Day, S.C. February 14, 2017

Family Caregivers do it with love.



*Respite is temporary breaks from care giving for a person (of any age) who has a disability, mental or emotional disorder, special need or chronic illness. It is an essential service that keeps families together by protecting the physical health and mental health of the family caregiver. **IT IS NOT A FRILL!***

Family caregivers lovingly do the care, but the need for regular breaks grows with each year of care giving.

Even 4 hours of respite per week has been shown to make a significant difference in a family caregiver's life. At \$10 - \$12 an hour, this can be as little as \$2,080 - \$2,500 a year.



Respite care is cost effective. Without respite, caregivers burn out, and are more likely to suffer poor health themselves, which can result in institutionalization of the loved one. **A year of institutional care in SC costs \$72,635 – 79,147** (Genworth Financial).

National recognition: South Carolina, with leadership of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging and support from the State Legislature and other partners, is a national leader in recognizing the respite needs of family caregivers.

SC Respite Coalition serves families: Since 2013 it has provided small respite vouchers to eligible families not currently served or underserved by other programs, with emphasis on family caregivers of children, young adults and individuals in mid-life with special health needs. SCRC is building a statewide respite network.

Younger and midlife families caring for a child or adult with disabilities, mental illness, or other chronic illness have little respite.

Adults with disabilities: Back in 2009, there were 574,765 people 18-65 years old in SC who had disabilities (CDC data). As of February 1, 2017, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) served 22,214 people aged 18-65. That means at least 552,500 South Carolinians with disabilities between the ages of 18-65 do not receive DDSN services.

Children and Adolescents: In 2010, 177,157 (16.5%) children under 18 were identified in SC with diagnosed special physical and emotional health care needs. SC DDSN is serving 15,843 people under 18 as of 2/1/2017. Most of the rest of the 161,314 children with special needs in SC do not qualify for services through DDSN, Dept. of Mental Health or other respite services for family caregivers.

And there's an **aging tsunami** coming: by 2030 **our senior population** will nearly double to 1.8 million, with the 85 and older group, which more often needs care, growing fastest.

New respite requests to the S.C. State Legislature in the 2017-18 budget

The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging budget includes an **additional recurring \$.6 million for respite** statewide.

Thank you to legislators for current \$2 million recurring line item for respite in the Aging budget and 8 non-crisis beds at DDSN facilities. Your increased appropriations to DDSN have shortened waiting lists, increasing families' access to this much needed service.

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