Volunteer and Faith-Based Respite Learning Collaborative

Creating Dementia-Friendly Congregations to Support African American Families

February 29, 2024
2024 National Lifespan Respite Conference

RAISE the Bar for Respite, Albany, NY | May 21-23, 2024

Opening Dinner Plenary with Jason Resendez, National Alliance for Caregiving, May 21, 2024 | 6-9 PM
https://whova.com/portal/registration/careg_202306/7sv7kmqI

Lifespan Respite Grantee and Partner Learning Symposium, May 21, 2024 (Wine and Cheese Reception 7-8 PM May 20, 2024) Contact ARCH for registration link.
Today’s Presenter

Fayron Epps, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN
Professor | Karen & Ronald Herrmann Distinguished Chair in Caregiving Research Fellow, Betty Irene Moore Fellowship Program for Nurse Leaders and Innovators
Creating Dementia-Friendly Congregations to Support African American Families

FAYRON EPPS, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN
Founder, AlterDementia
Professor | Endowed Chair of Caregiving Research
UT Health San Antonio
Acknowledgments

- Alter Team
- SageNavigator, Inc
- Georgia GEAR (GWEP, HRSA)
- NorthStar GWEP
- University of Minnesota
- BOLD Public Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving
- University of Pittsburgh
- Virginia Geriatric Education Center
- Emory University
- Respite for All Foundation
- Engaging Communities (University of TN Chattanooga)
- UsAgainstAlzheimer’s
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Parkinson’s Foundation
- AARP
- Rupe Foundation
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Mississippi State Department of Health
- MapHabit
- UT Health San Antonio
Black churches have been and STILL ARE the heartbeat of African American communities.

Serving as THE MOST trusted source of information for economic empowerment, political advisement, education, and even healthcare

Black churches offer safe environments

"... the church is influential because they have such an old tradition of just being that go-to answer .. the first thing we always say is pray, talk to the pastor."

"The church is accountable."
Why Does Alter Exist?

- To provide dementia-related education to African American faith-based communities and equip them with the resources they need to better serve their members and surrounding community who have been impacted by dementia.

- In the beginning...

• **EDUCATE** - Educate the community about dementia: the signs, risk factors, caregiver stress, and the diagnosis.

• **EMPOWER** - Empower congregants to go into the community to approach dementia with confidence.
  • When you are educated about a subject, you feel empowered, capable, and confident.
  • You want to tell someone what you learned.

• **ALTER** - Alter the community’s perception of dementia. You came in with one perspective of the disease, and we want to Alter that perception for the better.
  • Dementia is not a death sentence.
  • Dementia does not mean incapable.
  • Dementia does not mean I am not human.
ALTER...

ALTER YOUR APPROACH

ALTER YOUR UNDERSTANDING

ALTER YOUR OUTLOOK
The Alter program is working toward bringing resources and supportive services African American communities through an evidence-informed three-pronged approach:

**Support**
Offering resources for care partners and persons living with dementia

**Education**
Providing or promoting church and community education and awareness opportunities

**Worship**
Modifying faith communities to be dementia-inclusive spaces, physically and programmatically
### Examples of Initiatives & Activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>WORSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memory Cafe</td>
<td>Memory/Purple Sunday</td>
<td>Shorten service length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Groups</td>
<td>Virtual Dementia Experience</td>
<td>Offer a high proportion of music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Library</td>
<td>Dementia or Brain Health Education (to include youth)</td>
<td>Familiar prayers &amp; use of visual aids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respite Programs</td>
<td>Supportive education/trainings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supply Closet for families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partnership Details

- 2-year partnership
- Welcome box
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Financial contribution/Monetary support
- Agree to implement 16 suggested initiatives/activities and modifications
- Opportunity to renew partnership/legacy partners

Have invested more than $120K in our faith communities
OUR FAITH PARTNERS
CREATING A MEASURE OF COMMUNITY-LEVEL DEMENTIA-FRIENDLINESS IN FAITH COMMUNITIES
How Can You Help?

**STAY CONNECTED**
- Sign up for quarterly newsletters
- Become a Volunteer
- Follow us on social media

**BECOME A PARTNER**
- Attend a virtual informational session
- Complete an application and onboarding packet
- Identify an ambassador within your congregation

**PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATION**
- Host and/or attend a:
  - Community forum
  - Dementia-Friendly Workshop
Spraying the Word
Informational Meeting

Alter guides and equips predominantly African American places of worship to become trailblazing dementia-friendly faith communities.

We have several tools to help faith communities learn and grow.

To learn how you can Alter your faith community, join us for one of our monthly informational meetings.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month @ 6 pm EST.

To register, visit us at https://tinyurl.com/5n74v3x4 or contact us at (770) 686-7730.
ALTER™

Dementia Summit:
The Role of the Black Church

House of Hope Atlanta in Decatur, Georgia

www.alterdementia.com

REGISTER NOW

April 25-27, 2024
Creating Dementia Friendly Congregations
Inspiring and Equipping Faith Communities
ALTER guides and equips predominantly African American places of worship to become trailblazing dementia-friendly faith communities.

**Partner**

To learn how you can Alter your faith community, join us for one of our monthly informational meetings.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month @ 6 pm EST


**Alter Dementia Summit**

The Summit will equip faith communities with practical tools and resources needed to support their members living with dementia and their caregivers.

Pre-Register or Sponsor Below

April 25th–27th
House of Hope Atlanta

https://alterdementia.com/summit-2024/

**Consultation**

We provide consultation for faith communities and organizations serving families affected by dementia.

Contact Us

(770) 686-7730
Outreach@alterdementia.com

https://alterdementia.com/summit-2024/
QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: outreach@alterdementia.com
Cell: 770-686-7730
TWITTER: @ALTERDEMENTIA
IG @Alterdementia