



IN TOUCH

Physician Newsletter

Comfort and dignity as life nears its end

SUMMER 2017

DEMENTIA CARE FELLOWSHIP SEEKS APPLICANTS

Every one of us has been touched by dementia, whether caring for our patients, or our own families and friends. It is now the fourth-leading cause of death in Arizona. Over the next decade, the state will experience the second-highest increase nationally in dementia cases.

In response to this developing crisis, Hospice of the Valley is launching the Dementia Care Fellowship program in January 2018. The goal is to develop tomorrow's leaders in dementia care in Arizona, said Debbie Shumway, executive director.

Up to 12 fellows will be selected to participate in the 12-month program.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a dementia expert, please view hov.org/fellowship, email dementiafellowship@hov.org, or call (602) 748-3692.

Applicants are expected to include physicians, clinicians, educators, government and long-term care administrators, and human service workers interested in improving dementia care efforts in their unique settings.

"We particularly welcome physicians and other healthcare professionals who would like to change their workplace to be more dementia-friendly," said Gillian Hamilton, MD, PhD, a geriatrician with dementia expertise. "The time commitment is only four educational days over the course of a year, and developing a small project in your workplace. CMEs and CEAs are available."

The fellows and their respective organizations each



Gail Higginbotham, dementia activities coordinator, reads to Tomasa Revilla.

will receive \$5,000 to participate in the program and to support a change project.

"If we want superb care for people with dementia, which will include almost half of 85-year-olds, then we need to develop a workforce that is both passionate and knowledgeable about caring for this population," Dr. Hamilton said. Most healthcare professionals receive little training on dementia care.

Jan Dougherty, who has a master's degree in nursing, will direct the fellowship program. She noted a recent large-scale survey of health and human service workers found "most felt unprepared to recognize or interact with people with dementia, let alone how to provide dementia-capable communication and strategies." The fellowship program aims to change that by developing and supporting leaders with an interest in the field.

The application deadline is Oct. 15, 2017.

HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY PALLIATIVE CARE UNITS

Central Phoenix

Gardiner Home

1522 W Myrtle Ave, Phoenix 85021

Ryan House

110 W Merrell St, Phoenix 85013

St. Joseph's PCU

350 W Thomas Rd, Phoenix 85013

Northeast Valley

Eckstein Center

9808 N 95th St, Scottsdale 85258

Sherman Home

5801 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix 85054

East Valley

Dobson Home

1188 N Dobson Rd, Chandler 85224

Friendship Village

2525 E Southern Ave, Tempe 85282

Lund Home

1982 E Woodside Ct, Gilbert 85297

West Valley

Surprise PCU

14066 W Waddell Rd, Surprise 85379

Thunderbird PCU

13614 N 59th Ave, Glendale 85304



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