

Debra McGarigle-Kostiw

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Professional Profile

It has long been my desire to bring respect and dignity to the faces of Dementia. Through my book, Forget Me Not and the development of the Certified Master Dementia Strategist course I am inspiring a stronger, broader awareness for Dementia on a global scale.

Work Experience

July 2023 — Present Certified Master Dementia Strategist Corporate Trainer
President/Founder

November 2020 — Present No Place Like Home Senior Care
President/Owner, Companion Care Agency

March 2010 — November 2020 Home Helpers & Direct Link of Rochester
President/Owner, Companion Care Agency

2002 – 2008 American Red Cross
Apheresis Specialist & Donor Specialist

1999 – 2002 Ethan Allen
Interior Designer & Sales

1996 – 1999 Strong Memorial Hospital
Phlebotomist & EKG Technician

Education

Certified Master Dementia Strategist (CMDS): March 2023
Answers About Alzheimer's YouTube Channel: October 2022 — Present
Alzheimer's Association Train The Trainer Certified — 2011
Monroe Community College Business & Interior Design Graduate — GPA 3.99, 1995
Monroe Community College Radiologic Technology — 1984
Pittsford Sutherland High School Graduate — 1983

Accomplishments

Author: Forget Me Not: #1 Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Resource
YouTube Channel: Answers About Alzheimer's
Developed 4 Day Certification Course (CMDS): March 2023
Designed 3 Hour PowerPoint Training on Communication & Behaviors with Exams for 300 Franchise Owners: 2016
Master Fall Prevention Specialist: Boston University
Alzheimer's Association Volunteer Educator & Train The Trainer Instructor
Published November & December 2013 Home Helpers National Newsletters
Received the Shining Star Award: 2011 Home Helpers Conference

Accomplishments (continued)

Designed Webinars with Tests for National Franchise
Elder Abuse (2017)
Alzheimer's Behaviors (2016)
Alzheimer's Communication (2016)
Alzheimer's Education (2016)

Teaching Experience & Educational Seminars

Certified Master Dementia Strategist 4 Day Course (CMDs): March 2023 — Present
Train The Trainer — 5 Day Course Alzheimer's Association: 2011-2014
National Home Helpers Conference — Elder Abuse: 2017
National Home Helpers Conference — Dementia Communication: 2013
National Home Helpers Conference — Dementia Behaviors: 2012
National Franchise Webinars with Tests
Elder Abuse (2017)
Alzheimer's Behaviors (2016)
Alzheimer's Communication (2016)
Alzheimer's Education (2016)
Alzheimer's Association Public Community Trainings — 2011-2014
Alzheimer's Association Senior Living Employee Trainings — 2011-2014
Alzheimer's Association Respite Employee Program — 2011-2014

Radio Show Host: WYSL Radio 92.1 F.M./1040 A.M.

Answers About Aging Radio Host — 2020
Seniors Rock Radio Show: Featured Expert for 8 Shows — 2018
Master Fall Prevention Trainer, Matter of Balance — Boston University, 2015

Speaking Engagements & Conferences

New York State Association of Resident Service Coordinators Conference Saratoga June 2023
Elder Justice Committee World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference — Speaker 2020 & 2022
YouTube Channel: Answers About Alzheimer's
Home Helpers National Convention — Speaker 2011, 2020 & 2023
WYSL Radio Show Seniors Rock Guest Speaker
WYSL Radio Show Answers About Aging Host / Producer
Alzheimer's Association Conference Dome Arena — 2012
Society on Aging Rochester NY
Alzheimer's Association: Averaged 8 — 12 courses on various topics per month for 4 years.

Articles & Publications

Author Forget Me Not: #1 Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Resource

55 Plus Magazine: Area Expert, Multiple Articles

In Good Health Magazine: Elder Abuse Area Expert, May 2019

Democrat and Chronicle Newspaper: Teams to Probe Financial Abuse Front Page — August 2011 Area Expert

Democrat and Chronicle Newspaper: Dad, Dementia and the Holidays — November 2017

The Daily Record: November 2011

Certifications

Certified Master Dementia Strategist — 2023

Certified Alzheimer's Trainer TTT — 2011

Master Fall Prevention Trainer TTT — 2015

Elder Abuse Certificate, Lifespan — 2018

Living Well at End-of-Life — 2013

Cognitive Rehabilitation and Memory Enhancement — 2014

Alzheimer's Association Certified Educator — 2014

See Something, Say Something: Elder Abuse — 2018

Impact of Social Isolation — 2018

Intersection of Substance Misuse, Mental Illness, Alzheimer's and Dementia — 2018

Family Relationships & Dementia — 2018

Restorative Justice in Elder Abuse — 2018

Professional Associations & Memberships

Greater Rochester Area Partnership for the Elderly (GRAPE): 2008 — Present

Century Club: 2020 — 2022

State Society of Aging Board Member — 2010-2011

Awards

Black Dragon Award 2023

Volunteer of The Year Award Alzheimer's Association 2017,2018,2019

Shining Star Award 2015

Legislation

Introduced legislation bill #S5515 currently on the U.S. N.Y.S. Senate floor that when passed, will prevent criminals from inheriting funds if convicted of elder abuse.

References

Available upon request