



FINDING Your Way

Finding Your Way Living Safely in the Community



*For people with dementia,
every step counts.*

Alzheimer Society
GREY - BRUCE

Société Alzheimer Society

Funded by





Finding Your Way is a program designed to:

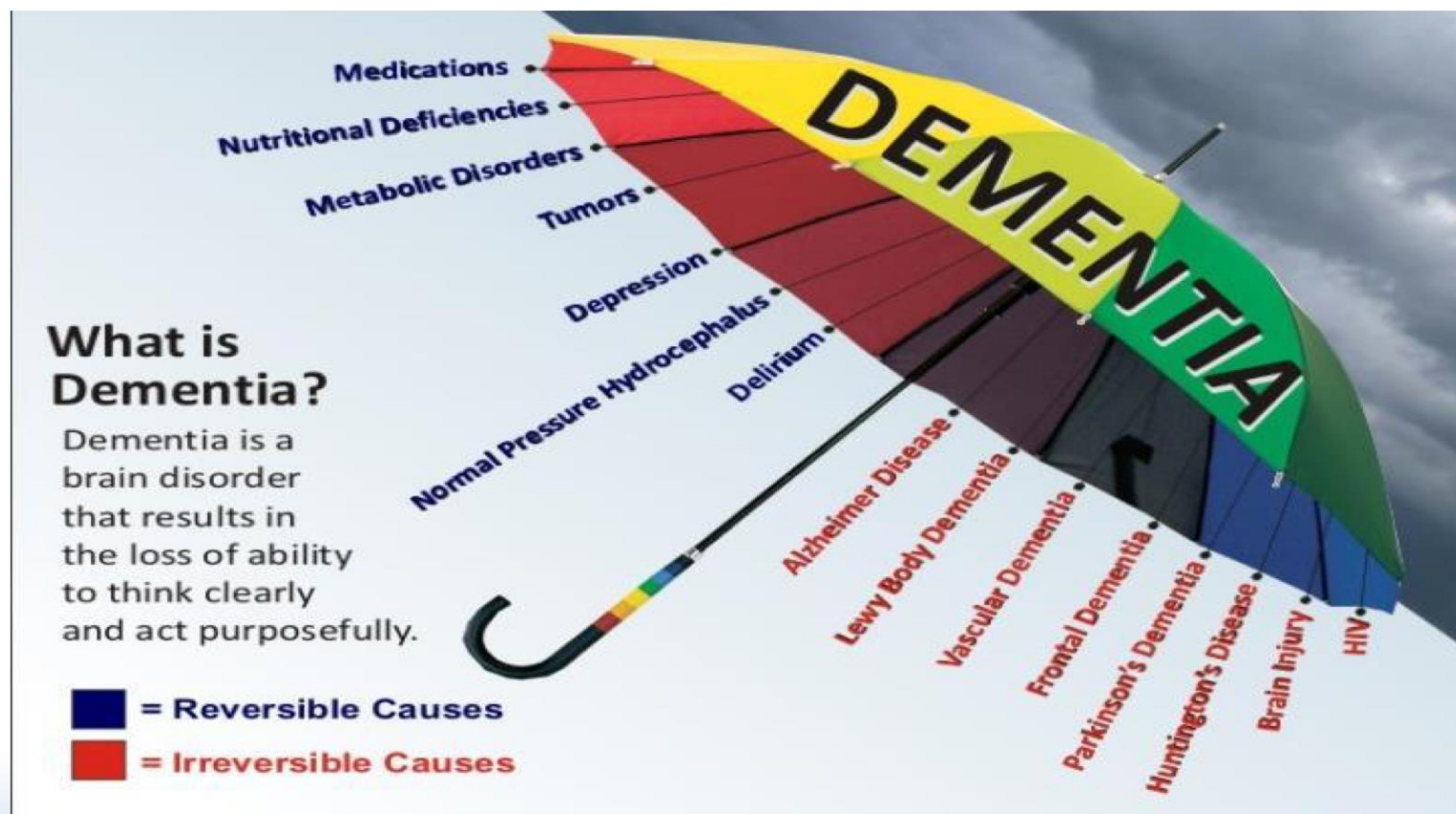
- Raise **awareness** of the risk of going missing for people with dementia
- Help **prevent** missing incidents by promoting the creation of a safety plan
- Support the **safe return** of people who do go missing



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Types of Dementia





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Dementia by the numbers

564,000

Canadians are currently living with dementia

16,000

The number of Canadians under the age of 65 living with dementia

228,000

The number of Ontarians living with dementia

937,000

The number of Canadians who will be living with the disease in 15 years



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Why is Finding Your Way important?

- Three out of five people living with dementia go missing, often without warning.
- Half of those not found within 24 hours will be gravely injured or die
- Nearly 75% of people who go missing are found within a quarter mile of their home or last location seen



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Dementia-friendly communities





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Why do people with dementia go missing?

- **Loss of memory**
- **Changed environment**
- **Searching for the past**
- **Excess energy**
- **Confusing night and day**
- **A job to perform**
- **Discomfort or pain**
- **Dreams**

All the potential reasons for someone with dementia to go missing are related to changes that are occurring in the brain.





Signs that someone may be confused about their whereabouts?

- Not appropriately dressed for the weather
- Looking up at street signs
- Standing still, looking around for a long time
- Look on face of confusion or disorientation
- Repeating the same question in a short period of time



How to help the individual?

- Approach from the front and identify yourself
- Speak slowly and calmly
- Use short simple words and "yes" or "no" questions
- Do not raise your voice
- Ask one question at a time and leave time for response between questions
- Repeat question using the same words used the first time



How to help the individual?

- Maintain a calm environment
- Maintain good eye contact
- Avoid confrontation
- Avoid correcting
- Call police (911)
- Stay with person until police arrive, this may mean walking with them or following behind them.

Prevention

- Register on MedicAlert® SafelyHome®
- Project Lifesaver
- Fill out the Identification Kit found on the Finding Your Way website and take a current picture
- Carry identification
- Consider a locating device
- Involve neighbours, family, friends
- Have a buddy system
- Create check-in systems and routines



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Locating Devices



MedicAlert[®] *Safely Home*[®]
Canadian MedicAlert Foundation

- A nationwide program designed to help identify the person who is lost and assist in a safe return home
- Members receive an engraved identification which allows police and emergency responders to quickly identify the person who has wandered and bring the family back together
- 1-855-581-3794



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Identification Kit

- The kit is a four page tool
- Includes the person with dementia's basic information, physical description, identifying features, recent photo, medical info, potential places to look, car and license plate info, and emergency contact information
- Can be filled in with personal information and passed on to searchers, saving time in event of emergency



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Project Lifesaver

- operated internationally by public safety agencies
- designed for “at risk” individuals who are prone to wandering
- individuals wear a wristband that emits a tracking signal
- signal which can be tracked up to a 2-kilometer radius



Project Lifesaver

Participants

- ☐ must be a resident of Bruce or Grey County,
- ☐ have a caregiver or responsible individual in accompaniment twenty-four hours a day

Application Process

- ☐ applicants complete a Client Profile Form
- ☐ upon acceptance into the Program, applicants sign a Participation Agreement
- ☐ caregivers are provided with an orientation to the Program and equipment



Project Lifesaver Grey Bruce

- South Bruce OPP, Grey Bruce OPP & Owen Sound Police Services
- \$575 initial set up, battery fee and equipment lease (Yr 1)
- \$150 yearly renewal fee and battery charges
- Victim Services does the battery changing.



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Locating Devices

Locating devices may be helpful:

1. To locate a person who is lost
2. To provide increased independence to a person who wishes to go out alone but may become lost

Using a locating device does not decrease the need to check in often with the person with dementia.

Locating Devices

Radio Frequency

- Project Lifesaver (where available)
- Wristband worn by the person who may get lost

Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

- Various models available

Assisted Global Positioning System (A-GPS)

- Newer technologies such as smart phones and tablets



Missing Incident

- Remain calm
- Call 911 – search is an emergency
 - Provide the police with Identification Kit and recent photo
 - Inform them about medications, where person sometimes goes, any locating device being used, and any registry person might be on
- Mobilize Support:
 - Leave someone at home in case person returns
 - Alert neighbours and friends that person is missing
 - Alert police of credit cards that could be used or license plate



Missing Incident

Do a quick search:

- Look inside the house including the garage
- Check to see if any items, such as luggage, car keys or credit cards are missing
- Look around the outside of the house (dwelling)
- Do not do this in a rural area as you may compromise the search for police



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Post Missing Incident

- Be prepared
- Approach calmly
- Provide reassurance
- Keep your perspective
- Ask for help

Programs and Services in Grey-Bruce

- Art Therapy
- Melodies and Memories
- Memory Café
- Minds in Motion
- Learning the Ropes with Mild Cognitive Impairment
- Individual Counseling & Support
- Support Groups
- First Link Learning Series for people with dementia & their families/friends





The Alzheimer Society Grey Bruce is a registered charity

- Money raised in Grey-Bruce stays here to provide information, education, support and counselling services for individuals, families and health care professionals
- Less than 60 per cent of the cost of our budget is funded by government or other outside sources.
- Support through donations ensures that together we continue to make a real difference in the quality of life for individuals with dementia, and for their families and caregivers.



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Thank you

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Alzheimer*Society*
GREY - BRUCE

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Education Hour

<https://alzheimer.ca/en/greybruce/We-can-help/Education/education-hour>



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