In May, we honor Mothers around the globe. This recognition shouldn’t be held to just one day a year, but rather we should give thanks to the strong women in our lives every single day. Board member Lisa Van Dusen has done just that, and shared with us.

My mom passed away 4 years ago in March from Alzheimer’s. I want to honor her today with encouragement for those who are joining their loved one in the journey of Alzheimer’s.

They say the mind forgets, but the heart never does. Alzheimer’s steals the ability to express oneself. Mom was losing language and much of what she said was jargon, mixed up words, all without meaning to the observer. But then there were rare days when very briefly she had clarity and she could say what she was thinking.

I captured these quotes from her during the last year and a half of her life in the Alzheimer’s care home.

Mom passed away March 21, 2018.

Do not hesitate to spend time with a loved one who has Alzheimer’s or other dementia because you don’t think they don’t remember you or it is uncomfortable to see them suffer. I will never regret putting my uncomfortable feelings aside to spend time with her in her last days. I did not expect these moments. They were the most beautiful and intimate times I had with my mother. Precious, sweet, remembered, and cherished.
Advocacy In Action

The Kansas Legislature has concluded most of its work for 2022 but is saving a few of its remaining 90 days to return May 23 for what is being called a “second veto session.” This break gives the Kansas Supreme Court time to rule on the constitutionality of the 2022 congressional reapportionment map with a follow-up opportunity for the legislature to respond to that decision. Both chambers approved the omnibus budget bill for the 2023 state fiscal year before adjourning April 28. If they choose, they can address any remaining legislation when they return and take action on any bills vetoed by the governor.

Read KABC's full report on our website.

Resources

Protecting Seniors by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation’s Nursing Homes

All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and to have access to quality medical care. President Joe Biden is committed to ensuring that all Americans, including older Americans and people with disabilities, live in a society that is accessible, inclusive, and equitable.

One of the reforms the President announced will ensure that every nursing home provides a sufficient number of staff who are adequately trained to provide high-quality care.

For KABC, inadequate staffing has been a big concern for several years. Kansas’ shortage of long-term care facility staff is fourth worst in nation. In a recent Kansas Reflector article, KABC director Dan Goodman stated: “This isn’t a new problem. Nursing homes were inadequately staffed long before COVID began but the pandemic worsened the situation. Continuing this practice should be a cause for alarm for all Kansans.”

The National Consumer Voice's New Report also highlights how nursing homes with higher staffing levels have better Five-Star Ratings and less instances of abuse.

KABC will continue to advocate with State and Federal policy makers to increase the minimum staffing requirements in nursing homes to prevent abuse, neglect and the elevated risk of death.

May is national hearing and speech awareness month.

An estimated 38 million Americans suffer from some form of hearing loss. According to the National Institute on Aging, 1 in 3 people between the ages of 64 and 75 have trouble hearing. Hearing loss is the largest modifiable risk factor against dementia, according to a study in the Lancet. The study also found that treating hearing loss could eliminate 1 in 10 cases of dementia.

Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) introduced new legislation that would require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue a final rule regarding over-the-counter hearing aids. Their bipartisan Delivering Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids Now Act follows the FDA’s proposed rule implementing over-the-counter hearing aids in October 2021, which was issued more than a year after the statutory deadline and over four years after the law’s passage. This bill would apply additional pressure on FDA to finalize the rule, requiring the agency to issue a final rule within 30 days following enactment. In July 2021, President Biden signaled his support for over-the-counter hearing aids in his Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy.
COVID-19 Resources

CMS Returning to Certain Pre-COVID-19 Policies in Long-term Care and Other Facilities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking steps to continue to protect nursing home residents’ health and safety by announcing guidance that restores certain minimum standards for compliance with CMS requirements. Restoring these standards will be accomplished by phasing out some temporary emergency declaration waivers that have been in effect throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). These temporary emergency waivers were designed to provide facilities with the flexibilities needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the April 7, 2022 press release.

Upcoming Events

Person-Centered Approach to Care

It is hard to imagine having a loved one go to a setting where no one knows anything about them, or even who the people are that are important to them. This is a simple way to provide some peace of mind and also help our heavily burdened healthcare workers provide the best support and care.

KABC hosts free trainings year round. If you’re interested in KABC presenting to your group, email info@kabc.org or call the office at 800-525-1782

Moms are special!

We would love to have you honor your Mom by making a donation to KABC in her name. Just click the red Donate Now button to make your secure, tax-deductible gift, and help other Moms in Kansas live better lives as they age. (Thanks to Lorie Sawyer & Jessie Hamm for sharing this wonderful 4-generation family photo!)
Support KABC At No Cost!

Dillons/Kroger

Before your next shopping trip to Dillon's, be sure to designates KABC as your Community Rewards Charity to improve elder care as you shop. Click the photo to sign up and designate KABC as your charity of choice!

Amazon Smile

Did you know that Amazon donates a percentage of each item purchased through their website to a charity of your choice? Before making your Amazon purchase, designate KABC as your Amazon Smile charity and help improve elder care with every purchase!

Don't Forget The App!

Amazon recently added the Smile charity feature to their mobile app too! Here's how to activate it on your phone:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Kansas Advocates For Better Care" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

KABC's Privacy Policy

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) protects your privacy.

KABC maintains password-protected computerized data files regarding financial support. We do not sell or share our membership list or member financial information with any other agency, and will not divulge any personal information about any members, contributors or contacts without express written permission.

About Kansas Advocates for Better Care

KABC is a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization "dedicated to improving the quality of long-term care for older Kansans at home and in residential care settings." Our mission is achieved through public policy advocacy, trainings and education, and by providing guidance & support to older adults and their families who need help with long-term care issues.