



Barron County

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October 9, 2023

Dear _____,

As a family caregiver, you have connected with the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) recently or in the past. We are inviting you to attend a special event, "Family Caregiver Voices", on Thursday, November 2nd, from 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at Turtleback Golf, Restaurant & Event Center in Rice Lake, WI. This event is designed to recognize the incredible care, commitment, and advocacy you provide or provided to your loved one and to give you an opportunity to share with our State Legislators what is needed to help you and the person you care for now and in the future. The agenda includes a buffet lunch, followed by the screening of the film documentary, "Unconditional: A Journey of Selfless Love" (filmed right here in Wisconsin), and concludes with an opportunity for you to share your story and advocate for any changes you think would help meet caregiver needs. Both oral and written testimony is welcome.

ADRC staff have heard from many of you regarding challenges related to the current systems and resources that were designed to help in your journey, but instead may have left you frustrated and perhaps even more overwhelmed. The way to make needed change to help you and other caregivers overcome these challenges is by connecting with elected officials who can help bring about changes. We have the power to use our collective voice to share what matters most with Senator Romaine Quinn and Representative Dave Armstrong. I encourage you to share your story (experiences) with them, including how the following areas impact you:

- Financial costs associated with care
- Your experience finding respite care, quality of providers and available options
- Your experience with healthcare providers/hospital systems
- Your experience with memory care facilities and their quality, training of staff, etc.
- Your experience with long term care resources, including the ADRC and managed care organizations
- How you were impacted, emotionally, financially, health-wise, etc.
- What would help...what is needed

Please do not worry about having a perfect story or using the right words, we just need you to be you and share what matters. If speaking in front of a crowd is not your thing, please see enclosed "Share Your Story" to assist you in writing your story. If you would like additional help or feedback on your story **or if you need someone to stay with your loved one so you can attend**, please contact Trisha Witham or Alisa Lammers at the ADRC, 715-537-6225. RSVP is requested online at www.adrcconnections.org/registrations or call 715-537-6225. If possible, please bring a picture of the person you are caring for or cared for. Please consider joining us.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."-Margaret Mead

Sincerely,

The ADRC Staff of Barron County

Enclosures