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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance
Celebrates Family Caregiver Month
Caregiver Support is Vital to Our Nation's Health**

Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA or The Alliance) celebrates family caregivers during November's National Family Caregiver Month. We offer thanks to Wisconsin policymakers for their efforts in acknowledging the need for Wisconsin to expand and sustain the options available in Wisconsin. Thank you, Governor Evers, for issuing the proclamation recognizing November as Family Caregiver Month to Wisconsin Families [Governor's Proclamation](#).

The [Caregiver Action Network](#) has declared the theme for 2023's National Family Caregiver Month to be **#CaregiversConnect, and they invite you to join in their campaign as an official Partner**. Beginning in 1994, National Family Caregiver Month is a time to recognize America's many different kinds of family caregivers who care for people of all ages who need help in their daily lives. Connecting with one another as a family caregiver is important; it's healthy and it's helpful. For that reason, we have compiled several opportunities to connect throughout the state. In-person meetings are offered through local [Aging & Disability Resource Centers](#) (ADRCs), through [virtual/telephonic](#) support, and even one-on-one support provided by United Way of Wisconsin's [Caregiver Outreach Program](#).

[WFACSA](#) fully recognizes the invaluable work that family caregivers do each day! According to AARP, "Care provided by millions of unpaid family caregivers across the U.S. was valued at \$600 billion in 2021...For perspective, that amount is considerably more than the **\$433 billion spent by families nationwide in 2021** for all out-of-pocket U.S. healthcare costs. Put another way, the sheer act of trying to save \$600 billion by setting aside \$100,000 per year would take a total of 6 million years."¹

In honor of National Family Caregivers Month, we encourage every person to reflect and identify the friend or neighbor in their life who is in the role of family caregiver. Family caregivers need you! Be open and intentional about offering support. It could be doing a

¹<https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/financial-legal/info-2023/unpaid-caregivers-provide-billions-in-care.html>

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household chore, lawn care, or laundry, providing a meal, a grocery run, or lending an empathetic ear. Most importantly, offer them grace and flexibility when with them at work, church, or family gatherings.

To further show support, the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance invites you to help us spread awareness and knowledge of caregiver support resources. Please visit [WisconsinCaregiver.org](https://www.wisconsinfamilycaregiver.org) to find your local Aging & Disability Resource Center and more about caregiver-specific support programs. You can also follow [@WisconsinFamilyCaregiver](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinFamilyCaregiver) on Facebook to learn more about advocacy efforts, support, and resources for family caregivers in your community.

Lastly, we would encourage caregivers, families, advocates, health providers, and more to help advance legislative and policy change that is necessary to support our Wisconsin family caregivers. This could be the support of paid caregiver leave, increase in state and federal funding for caregiver and respite programs, support of the [CARE Act](#), and helping Wisconsin employers become “Caregiver Friendly Workplaces.” To learn more about Strategies to Attract and Retain Working Caregivers, review and share our [HR CareKit](#). To contact your legislatures regarding topics that are important to you, find your state legislature by visiting <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/> and enter your address in the box underneath “Who Are My Legislators?”.

Respectfully,
WFACSA Steering Committee

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