Alzheimer’s Mississippi
Launches to Continue High Quality Support in State
100% of funds will stay in Mississippi

Jackson – A new nonprofit dedicated to serving more than 52,000 Mississippians diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and their 206,000 caregivers officially opened today as Alzheimer’s Mississippi. While the name is new, it bears the same critical mission and dedicated staff members as under its former name, Alzheimer’s Association, Mississippi Chapter. The staff and board of Alzheimer’s Mississippi were joined by the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, Madison County Chamber, Greater Jackson Partnership as well as Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

“Our name may have changed, but our mission hasn’t,” said Patty Dunn, Executive Director of both the new and former nonprofits. “Mississippi families will continue to receive our services, still at no cost. As an independent nonprofit, every penny of every dollar raised here in Mississippi will stay in our state.”

Recently, the Chicago-based national Alzheimer’s Association began the process of combining its chapters into one nonprofit. After discussion and analysis, the chapter’s board of directors decided it was best that the chapter remain an independent nonprofit organization. Before this change, the chapter sent 40 percent of its funds to the national association. Now, 100 percent of donations to Alzheimer’s Mississippi will stay in Mississippi to provide care and support services to all Mississippi families.

“The support we receive from you stays in Mississippi – for programs, services and advocating for research,” Dunn said. “Our local orientation will allow us to build on the momentum of the State of Mississippi Strategic Plan for Alzheimer’s Disease and other Dementias, support local research institutions and initiatives, as well as creating strategic partnerships with state agencies allowing us to provide services and support to those who need it right here in Mississippi.”

Other chapters have also decided to become independent nonprofits.

“At the administrative level, there will be changes as we become our own independent organization,” Dunn said. “But, for the most part, we’ll remain the same, including our helpful staff and critical programs and services.”
Added Marshall Belaga, Alzheimer’s Mississippi board chair: “An Alzheimer’s diagnosis affects not only the person with the disease, but family members who will be primary caregivers providing over 234 million hours of unpaid care and we want to ensure all resources for support remain in Mississippi.”

“Alzheimer’s Mississippi looks forward to working closely with the Mississippi delegation as we continue to advocate to increase funding for Alzheimer’s research at the National Institutes of Health”, said, Jan Michaels, Alzheimer’s Congressional District Leader. “We will continue to work closely with Alzheimer’s congressional advocates such as Senator Wicker on advancing the EUREKA Act and Congressman Harper on the RAISE Act.”

Alana Miles, Alzheimer’s Senate Advocate Lead added, “We are fortunate to have a delegation from both sides of the aisle who support Alzheimer’s and caregiver legislation.” Recently, Senator Cochran and Senator Wicker co-sponsored the HOPE for Alzheimer’s Act following Congressman Harper and Congressman Thompson who last year co-sponsored the House version. The HOPE Act would provide essential support for those diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers.

Alzheimer’s Mississippi will continue to offer free programs just as it has for the past 25 years such as “The 10 Signs of Alzheimer’s,” “Brain Health as You Age”, annual caregiver conferences, and support groups. We look forward to hosting our signature events: Santé South, Alzheimer’s Mississippi Walks, and TackleALZ.

**About Alzheimer’s Mississippi:**
Providing supportive services and advocating for research funding to improve treatment and find a cure. Alzheimer’s Mississippi provides programs and services, free of charge, to Mississippi citizens with Alzheimer’s and related disorders, their families, caregivers, and the community. Alzheimer’s Mississippi was organized in 1990 and became an independent Mississippi based nonprofit in March 2016 to ensure 100 percent of funds raised stay in Mississippi. For more information, call 601-987-0020, or visit alzms.org.

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