**Media Contact:**

**ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION TO HOST TWO SPECIAL EVENTS**

**THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY IN WOOD COUNTY**

Wood County residents can share concerns, learn about local resources, latest updates on global impact of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias

**WOOD COUNTY, Texas | Jan. 13, 2020 –** During the first week of February, the Alzheimer’s Association will host two special events in Wood County. The first will be an Alzheimer’s Community Forum Luncheon from 11:30am-1:00pm on February 5, 2020 at the First United Methodist Church in Mineola located at 612 N. Newsom Street. The second is an Alzheimer’s Caregiver Education program at the First United Methodist Church in Winnsboro from 9am – 11:30am on Saturday, February 8, 2020. The purpose and content of each program is unique.

The first event, the Community Forum on February 5th in Mineola, is an opportunity for community members to share their observations, insights, and concerns related to the dementia care needs of Wood County. Local resident and newspaper publisher Brad Blakemore will serve as the moderator for the event, and Alzheimer’s Association staff members will be on hand to share additional resources with participants. Lunch will be served, so registration is required.

“The Alzheimer’s Community Forum is a way to connect with others who have been impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias and truly understand what the impact to the community is and how we can put steps in place to better serve East Texas,” said Debra Adams, Director of Programs & Services. “As we continue to provide care, support, education and research to the residents in Wood County and East Texas, it is important for us to meet individuals within the community and listen to their experiences related to Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.”

The second event is an Alzheimer’s Caregiver Education presentation held on Saturday, February 8th in Winnsboro. This program will feature two educational topics – “Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia” and “Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors.” There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions as well as receive Alzheimer’s Association resources. A continental breakfast will be served, and registration is requested.

Alzheimer’s is not part of normal aging. It is a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking, and behavior. There are an estimated 5.7 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease today with nearly 25 percent living alone. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and the only disease among the top 10 causes of death that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed. The number of Americans living with Alzheimer’s is projected to reach nearly 14 million by 2050 unless something is done.

Join us for these important programs to learn more about the impact of Alzheimer’s disease locally and nationwide, as well as the resources available for those living with this disease and their caregivers.

You can help raise awareness by sharing information about these events with anyone you know who lives or works in or around Wood County. These events are complimentary, but registration is required. People can sign up to participate by calling our 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 or by going online at alz.org/dallasnetexas.

**About the Alzheimer’s Association**

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's®. Visit www.alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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