# Member Highlight: **Reducing The Stigma - An Embracing Solution**

May was Mental Health Awareness Month, which made it the perfect time to celebrate the transformation that our member William Manus has enjoyed. William has been disabled with a mental disorder since he was 21. Still, he was always independent, according to his older sister, Sarah Haston. "He lived alone in our family home for thirteen years after our Mother died," Sarah shares. "William had no signs of dementia at that time, and he drove and was able to function like anyone else." Still, William led a lonely life because of the stigma surrounding mental health. He cared nothing about television. He



Third Quarter 2017

Lunch with friends

disliked being in crowds of people. Hence, his only socialization was with immediate family members.

Two years ago, Sarah began to notice changes in her brother. He seemed more confused. His driving became erratic and strange. He would get lost on occasion, and at times he seemed in a fog. "At one point, his bills began to come back," explains Sarah. "He

eventually asked me to take over paying his bills."

As William's confusion increased, Sarah made an appointment for a neurological screening, where it was determined that William was exhibiting early signs of dementia. Soon after, William didn't make it home from church one morning and was found 150 miles away in Canton, NC. Then, after a bad fall that led to eight days in the hospital and three weeks in rehab, Sarah knew some changes had to be made - starting with William moving in with them.



Chess challenge

Vol. 10, Issue 3

### Save The Date @ The Ivey John Leon Lewis **Musical Performances**

Monday 11:00 - 11:45 am July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 August 7, 14, 21, 28 September 11, 15, 25

Tuesday 11:00 - 11:45 am July 18 1:30 - 2:30 pm July 28 August 15 September 19

#### Wednesday

11:00 - 11:45 am July 12, 26 August 23 September 27 1:30 - 2:30 pm July 5 August 2 September 6

### Thursday 11:00 - 11:45 am August 10 September 14

Friday 11:00 - 11:45 am July 7, 14, 21 August 4, 11, 18 September1, 8, 18 1:30 - 2:30 pm July 28 August 25 September 22, 29

### The Ivey

**Support Group Meetings** 12 Noon - 1:15 pm The Ivey 6030 Park South Drive Charlotte NC 28210 **Tuesday Group** Wednesday Group 1st & 3rd Tuesday

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month

Younger-Onset 2nd & 4th Friday of each month

of each month

Male Caregiver 4th Wednesday of each month

For more information or to RSVP, call Eileen Behan or Leah Cooper at 704-909-2070.

Care services and lunch are available for your loved one during our meeting time (with advanced notice) at no charge. As a not-for-profit organization, donations are always appreciated.

(See Embracing Solution Page 2)

## Embracing Solution (from front page)

When the inevitable caregiver fatigue began to set in, Sarah set out to find a place where William could spend his days. However, there were roadblocks to finding the right place.

Sarah inquired at a local church about their program, but they would not accept him. "Suddenly I had an overwhelming feeling of rejection of my brother," she shares. "I almost didn't contact The Ivey for that same fear of rejection. But I'm glad I did." The Ivey welcomed him with open arms. Sarah wanted most for her brother to be treated with respect, understanding and kindness. "We have been blessed with all of this and more," she declares.

After an initial apprehension about attending and being away from his sister, he blossomed. Sarah says, "He is talking like I haven't seen him talk in years. He loves The Ivey and looks forward to going every day, and when I pick him up, he is excited to tell me about all the activities he engaged in that day. In fact, he thanks me often for finding this place for him."

Interaction with fellow members boosts his self-esteem and gives purpose to his day. He looks forward to the daily exercise, loves to play chess, and The Ivey staff accommodates his preferences gladly. Breakfasts and lunches are highlights in his day. And on days when our musical entertainer, John Lewis, performs, he even dances – "something he loved doing as a teenager," Sarah says with a smile.



A newfound love of dancing

## Community Advocacy:

## Helping To Create a "Dementia Friendly" Charlotte

Recently, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services partnered with Charlotte leaders in hosting an event on May 2nd to discuss the impact of dementia on our city and its residents. Entitled "Developing a Dementia-Capable Charlotte Mecklenburg," the event was attended by over 75 community leaders, including leaders of The Ivey.

The Charlotte gathering was an important step in North Carolina's participation toward creating a "Dementia Friendly America." This national initiative (www.dfamerica. org) brings together the work of over 35 national organizations representing all community sectors collectively leveraging their national reach to activate local affiliates to convene, participate in and support dementia-friendly community efforts at the local level. The Ivey is proud to advocate, locally, for these efforts, alongside organizations such as faith communities, emergency planning and first response, legal and advanced planning services, government services, the Alzheimer's Association, Centralina Area Agency on Aging, the business community, and more.

As awareness of dementia grows, we all can and should take action to make our communities more dementia friendly. In fact, every segment of the community can play a unique role in providing meaningful support to people with dementia, their families, and their care partners.

Janet LeClair, our COO, is The Ivey's representative for the Charlotte initiative. Look for updates in future newsletters.

## **OUR FIVE PROGRAMS**



Mind & Body Wellness - Nurturing our members with meaningful activities like brain & body fitness, nourishing meals, and on-site physical, speech & occupational therapies.

Healthcare Program - Providing our members with second-to-none personal care, on-site RN supervision, and ongoing health monitoring.

Cultural Arts Therapy Program - Wielding the proven power of music, art and other cultural therapies to treat the disease and improve our members' lives.

Family Resources Program - Setting the bar with our celebrated Family Care Teams, physician liaison services, and other family support & engagement initiatives.

Community Outreach Program - Delivering free programs to educate the entire Charlotte community and build awareness about the dementia journey; participation in and supporting other non-profit & community organizations' initiatives.

# **Community Outreach:**

May 11: Caregiver Workshop at Myers Park Baptist Church. Partnership with Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region and the Department of Social Services Attendance = 90

May 16: Spring Fling fair at St. Matthews Catholic Church. Partnership with The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte 's Elder Ministry Attendance = 200

June 21: Lunch presentation at the Charlotte Bridge Assn clubhouse. Partnership with The Charlotte Bridge Assn in recognition of the Alzheimer's Assn's "The Longest Day", a 12-hour national fundraising day for bridge clubs across the country Attendance = 100

September 19: Lunch presentation at the Charlotte City Club. Partnership with the Charlotte Estate Planning Council to provide an educational forum about dementia and caregiver needs for estate planning professionals (attorneys, CPAs, financial advisors, insurers, etc) Est. Attendance = 75-100

### 2017 Alzheimer's Association Support

For the past 10 years, The Ivey has proudly supported and partnered with the local Alzheimer's Assn in their various caregiver education and recognition events. And, as certified Alzheimer's Assn support group faciliators, we provide 7 support groups each month.

Because our mission is to provide a whole family solution to families currently living with all types of dementias, the Alzheimer's Assn is one of our most important community partners.

As such, we will once again participate as a sponsor in the following 3 events this year. Last year, The Ivey walk team generated over \$17,000 for the Alzheimer's Assn, so we are hoping to match that amount this year! And, in celebration of our 10th anniversary year, a portion of funds raised by The Ivey walk team will go to the Alzheimer's Assn and the remainder will go to support direct services for The Ivey's member families through our five key programs.

August 31: Dementia Education Conference, Gold Sponsor Friendship Missionary Baptist Church 8am-4pm

October 28: Annual Walk, Silver Sponsor NEW DATE AND PLACE!! BB&T Ballpark Uptown, 9am-12pm Kickoff at The Ivey mid-August The Ivey team web registration begins September 1

**Spring 2018:** Memory Gala, Sponsorship Level TBD Location TBD

Charlotte's only Memory Wellness Day Center for a decade!



## Lynn's Attitude of Gratitude

As I celebrated my first wedding anniversary on June 18, I was so aware of my many blessings. Love and purpose in life are so important to live fully and joyfully. I am so grateful for finding my true love and together, passionately supporting the mission of The Ivey as our joint purpose in life. During the first 6 months of this year, John lost several long-time close friends and The Ivey lost several beloved members. We are so grateful to the families who loved these friends and members for honoring the memories of their loved ones with memorials gifts to The Ivey. Our mission is sustained through our loved ones and the gifts that memorialize them.

### In Memoriam

Bob Fanelli Elizabeth Hill Bill Hogue Alexandra Hrousalas Marjorie Kaminer David Latour Brenda Saunders Moore Dana Packman Paul Stevens Jerry Vanderpool Gene Wilhelm

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Abell Mr. & Mrs. Grady Alexander Mr. Tony Barretta Mr. & Mrs. William H. Bolton Mr. & Mrs. Jack Callicut Carolinas Electrical Contractors Mr. & Mrs. James Cavalaris Ms. Marcia Daley Edifice Mrs. Maureen Fanelli Gary & Victoria Frenette Mr. Billy Gerhart Ms. Mary Gumport Mr. & Mrs. George Hall Mrs. Mary Ann Hogue Mr. Cliff Homeslev Mr. & Mrs. Bill Howard Dr. & Mrs. Harold Howe, Jr. Howard Brothers Electric P.C. Jackson Plumbing Ms. Sharon Kaminer Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Keich Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kelly Mr. Peter Kelos Bruce & Claire Lawrence

Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Lichtman Ms. Roslind Lipari Ms. Patricia Lowe Nancy Taylor Lynch Design Ms. Angela McConnell Ms. Margrit Meier Metrolina Builders Microban Mr. Harris Miller Morrow Insurance Agency Ms. Julie Mudge Ketti & Davey Overcash Mr. Connie Pavlakos Quality Lighting Protection Co. Ms. Betty Reese Mr. David Riherd Ms. Samantha Shintay Ms. Letitia Thompson Ms. Joyce Thompson

Ms. Patricia A. Tracey Vallen Distribution Jeff & Paige Whitten Ms. Shira Winter Jackie & Steve Wellons

-Lynn Ivey, Founder and CEO

#### In Honor

Ty Boyd Linda Brown Mr. Patrick Kelly Mr. Hale Mast

### Annual Giving

Mrs. Suzanne Harley Helen & Mark Lazarus Mrs. Lynn Ivey-Moore Robinson Bradshaw Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Still Mrs. Cynthia Turtletaub