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TOWN HALL GIVES PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S THE PLATFORM TO TALK ABOUT ISSUES THEY FACE

Alzheimer's Association to Host Town Hall Meeting on Early Stage Alzheimer's Disease

February 21, 2008 – More than 5 million people in the United States are currently living with Alzheimer's; about half of which are in the early stages of the disease when they still retain many abilities and can contribute in the planning of their own care and future. In San Diego alone, there are 50,000 individuals living with Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association is hosting a Town Halls meeting on **Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 10am at the USD Manchester Conference Center** to give people living with the disease the opportunity to discuss issues they face and share helpful resources, programs and services.

The goal of this discussion is to give those with Alzheimer's disease a unique opportunity to share perspectives and connect with others who are living with the disease. This is also an opportunity for the Alzheimer's Association to listen and learn from those who are still able to advocate for themselves. Ultimately, this group will influence future resources, public policy efforts and general awareness about the realities of this disease.

“This is the first open forum for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's,” said Lisa Bruner, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter “We look forward to this opportunity to not only listen directly to those diagnosed with the disease, but also reach out to them by gaining new information that will help the Alzheimer's Association deliver the best care and support to all those living with the disease.”

The first meeting will be moderated by Diane Darby Beach, MPH, Ed.D, Community Education Manager of the Alzheimer's Association. The moderators will lead the Town Hall discussions and introduce panelists:

- **Dr. John Daly, MD, Medical Director, SOCARE, UCSD**
- **Jean Alton, Family Consultant, The Alzheimer's Association**
- 2 Individuals with early onset Alzheimer's disease

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After a brief introduction provided by the panel, participants (people with dementia) will share their perspectives by discussing various topics including: personal and professional relationships, clinical trials/research, medications, diagnosis, social perceptions and public policy.

Discussion Topics:

- Diagnosis
- Coping (fears/hopes)
- Medicines/Available treatment
- Legal issues
- Access to resources (transportation)
- Personal and professional relationships
- Stigma
- Community involvement (volunteering/advocacy)
- Clinical Trials/Research

Event Details:

Saturday, February 21, 2009
USD Manchester Conference Center
5998 Alcalá Park San Diego, CA 92110
10:00am - 1:00pm (check-in 9:30am)

To find out more information about the upcoming Town Hall meetings and to register to attend, visit www.sanalz.org or call 858.492.4400

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About the Alzheimer's Association:

The Alzheimer's Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) voluntary health organization whose 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. The Chapter provides free services, including support groups, educational seminars, 24-hour Helpline, a research library, Care Consultations, Safe ReturnTM and Memories in the MakingTM art program. For more information, visit www.sanalz.org or call 1-800-272-3900.