

Alzheimer's Association continues to raise awareness

The Alzheimer's Association of Trinidad and Tobago (AzATT) remains dedicated to raising awareness of this disease across T&T. This public awareness has taken many forms including: outreach programmes, lectures, discussions, seminars and DVD presentations, as well as providing support to persons living with the disease, their families and caregivers.

The fourth Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) Non-Latin Caribbean Conference on Alzheimer's and other dementias will also be included as part of AzATT's public education campaign.

A release said the conference, themed Dementia in the Caribbean: No Time to Lose will take place at the Radisson Hotel, Port-of-Spain from June 8 and marks AzATT's first foray into hosting an event of this kind.

The Massy Foundation's annual contribution to the Association was directed to offsetting the cost of the conference. Newly appointed President of the AzATT, Ann Smith, expressed the Association's appreciation for the Foundation's donation saying, "The funds received from the Massy Foundation are historically used for the Association's educational programmes and for this we are truly grateful. As we all know, education is fundamental in reducing the stigma associated with Alzheimer's, and with knowledge



Massy Foundation Manager Adele Rose, second from right, presents the Foundation's annual subvention to Alzheimer's Association president Ann Smith. Looking on are AzATT treasurer Joanne Shurland, left and vice-president Beryl Stuart.

comes a better understanding of the disease and how to cope with afflicted people.

"The Massy Foundation is pleased to be associated with the Alzheimer's Association of Trinidad and Tobago, as it continues relentlessly in its efforts to give support to and improve the quality of life for individuals with dementia. Your drive and passion are truly an inspiration

to the Foundation," commented Adele Rose, Manager of the Massy Foundation.

AzATT's new board of directors is keen to set up a volunteer programme. A number of areas have been identified where volunteers can participate effectively. The first area to be launched later this year is expected to be a 'Befriending Service', a service intended to pro-

vide support and companionship to persons with Alzheimers and their family members on a one-to-one basis. All volunteers will be vetted, trained and monitored.

Speaking on the disease, Smith emphasised, "Family members and caregivers should learn about the disease and what to expect at each stage as the disease progresses. They will need to exert a lot of pa-

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For more information on or to register for the conference interested persons may visit the website: <http://www.alztrinbago.org>, email alzcaribconf2017@gmail.com or call the Conference Chairperson, Norma Inniss on 632-4791.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering with the Association may call 225-8764 for additional information.

tience and learn how to communicate as the person's behaviour and ability to communicate can become challenging." She continued, "You must be flexible, as every day will not be the same. There will be good days and bad days. Please be willing to share your experiences, so others can learn and be able to cope."

The Alzheimer's Disease Programme started in 1996 as a project of the then incumbent President of the Soroptimist International Club of Port-of-Spain, Norma Inniss. It became the Alzheimer's Association of Trinidad and Tobago and was registered as a non-profit organisation in June 2000. In 2004, it became a full member of the ADI—the International Federation of Alzheimer's Associations around the world, and was twinned with the Alzheimer Society of Canada in 2006.