

NEW FRIENDS

Pairing UW-Madison students with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other memory changes

Provided by:

Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

What is New Friends?

New Friends pairs UW-Madison students with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other memory changes (mentors) for a mutually-enriching experience. Through meetings and shared activities, the pairs develop friendships while the student learns directly about living with memory changes and its effects on the person and their loved ones.

New Friends is also a research study that measures students' knowledge and attitudes about dementia and well-being of older adult mentors.

Who can join?

STUDENTS: UW-Madison undergraduate, graduate, and health professional students. This includes, but is not limited to, students interested in nursing, medicine, social work, pharmacy, occupational, physical and speech therapies.

MENTORS: People living with mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, or other dementias.

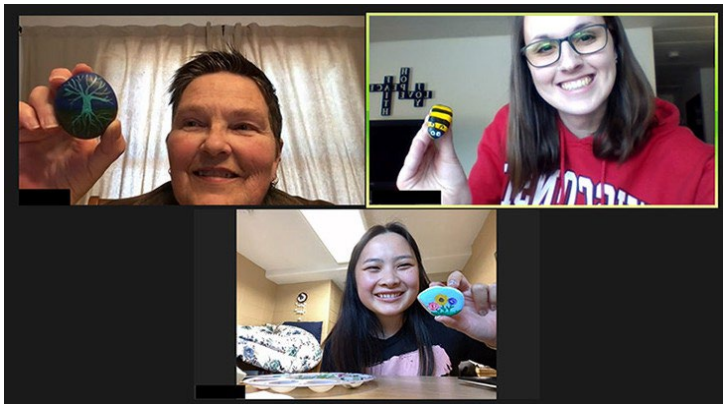
STUDENT requirements

- Complete orientation & background check
- Complete pre and post knowledge testing
- Attend monthly education sessions
- Spend 1-2 hours per month doing activities with your mentor during October through April
- Complete journal entry after meetings
- Attend end-of-year brunch
- Complete program evaluation

MENTOR requirements

- Spend 1-2 hours per month doing activities in the Madison area with student partners, October-April
- Attend end-of-year brunch
- Complete program evaluation

Join New Friends



Benefits to students:

- Learn about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of memory loss outside of the classroom
- Meet service learning requirements
- Learn about the psychosocial and medical issues facing older adults with memory changes
- Gain confidence in communicating with older adults with memory changes and family members
- Grow professionally and build your resume

Benefits to mentors:

- Educate future healthcare providers
- Share your experiences with dementia
- Participate in meaningful activities while making a new friend



"Even if you're not interested in geriatrics as a career, older adults will be a part of almost everyone's practice in some way, so I think it's important to understand both the medical as well as the psychosocial issues of older adults. I almost didn't do this program because I was worried about the time commitment during my first year of medical school, but I am so happy I did. It significantly enhanced my medical school experience as well as my quality of life."

-STUDENT PARTICIPANT, 2015-2016

Contact information

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Mentors and caregivers, contact:
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Click below to apply:

MENTOR Application

STUDENT Application