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FOCUS FORWARD CONFERENCE TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROFESSIONALS

JOLIET, IL---The Alzheimer's Association – Greater Illinois Chapter will offer free scholarships for staff of any facility with a licensed SCU, IDOA ombudsmen and IDPH surveyors for the annual Caregiver conference "Focus Forward: Exploring Options". The conference will take place on Thursday, April 23 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. at Harrah's Joliet Casino and Hotel, 151 North Joliet Street, Joliet.

"We are pleased to announce this wonderful opportunity for professional caregivers to attend our annual conference for free," said Melanie Adams, senior program manager for the Chapter. "In 2009 this conference will focus on several topics including Alzheimer's research updates, behaviors and finding joy in caregiving. There will also be round table discussions focusing on benefits of massage, benefits of music therapy, benefits of pet therapy and the benefits of art therapy. Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit our resource and book fair."

In 2007 347,136 Illinois Caregivers provided 299,647,682 hours of unpaid care to those suffering from Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The need for well educated Caregivers is going to skyrocket as the "Baby Boomer" generation enters the age of greatest risk. Current research estimates suggest that 10 million U.S. "Baby Boomers" will develop Alzheimer's disease, the time to act is now.

To register for "Focus Forward: Exploring Options" call the Greater Illinois Chapter at 815.744.0804 or visit us online at www.alz.org/illinois.

About the Alzheimer's Association - The Alzheimer's Association, the world leader in Alzheimer research and support, is the largest voluntary health organization dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and cure for Alzheimer's. Since 1980, the donor-supported, nonprofit Alzheimer's Association has provided reliable information and care consultation; created supportive services for families; increased funding for dementia research; and influenced public policy changes. **The Greater Illinois Chapter** serves dozens of counties with offices in Bloomington, Carterville, Chicago, Joliet, Rockford and Springfield. For more information, call our Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/illinois.

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