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BERKELEY RESIDENT JOINS THE ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 29 – The Alzheimer’s Association announces the election of Karen Stevenson of Berkeley, CA to its national board of directors.

Stevenson joins current board members in steering the strategic direction of the Association as it carries out its mission 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.

As chair of the local chapter board, Stevenson successfully led the Alzheimer’s Association, Northern California and Northern Nevada chapter, through leadership and structural changes. She brings broad operational and management experience in nonprofit and business sectors, including roles as CEO, senior executive, board member and general counsel.

Her family experience with Alzheimer’s disease has motivated Stevenson to assume many roles within the Association, including legislative ambassador to Senator Dianne Feinstein. Stevenson’s mother, a respected advertising copywriter who created the iconic “Mikey likes it” commercial, died from Alzheimer’s in 2011 after a 15-year struggle with the disease.

“As someone personally affected by this devastating disease, I am committed to ending Alzheimer’s and ensuring that all who have or face this disease receive the care and support they need until we do,” said Stevenson. “I’m honored to have the opportunity to serve as a member of the Alzheimer’s Association national board of directors.”

Stevenson was elected to a two-year term of service, and will serve on the board’s Public Policy and Diversity & Inclusion committees. She is a graduate of UCLA and UC Berkeley School of Law.
“We are so pleased to welcome Karen to the Alzheimer’s Association national board of directors,” said Christopher Binkley, chair of the national board. “Her expertise and background will be invaluable as we work together in pursuit of the Association’s vision of a world without Alzheimer’s.”

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, according to the Alzheimer’s Association 2016 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report, including 610,000 in California. Alzheimer’s is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the only one among the top 10 in the U.S. without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.

The Alzheimer’s Association advocates for the needs and rights of people facing Alzheimer’s disease. The Association calls for an increased commitment to Alzheimer’s funding from the federal government for Alzheimer’s research, education, outreach and caregiver support. It helps to pass landmark legislation such as the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which mandated the creation of the nation's first plan to fight Alzheimer's disease. It was also a driving force behind the passage of the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act, which allows expert scientists at the National Institutes of Health to directly communicate with Congress about the resources needed to achieve the National Plan's goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025.

About the Alzheimer's Association
The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. For more information, visit alz.org or call 1-800-272-3900.

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