Early Onset Dementia –
Three Different Journey's
with Early Onset &
Information on Early Onset
Support Groups

Presenters:

- Chris Nelson Person with Early Onset Frontal Temporal Dementia
- Wayne Eaker Person with Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease
- Bill & Sue Hobbins Sue was diagnosed with Early Onset Alzheimer's disease when she was 40 years old. She has familial dementia. Bill will talk about his journey as a care partner with his wife
- Arlene Huhn Manager, Education and Support Services, Alzheimer Society of Alberta and NWT

Chris Nelson



Chris

- Diagnosed at 54 years of age
- Social Worker
- Full time caregiver to her mother who was diagnosed with Alzheimer disease



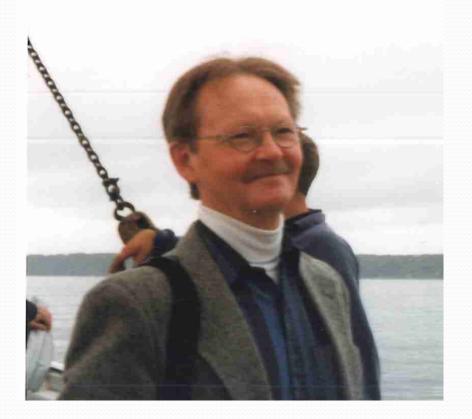




Chris

Help for myself and others, for today and Hope for our future

Wayne Eaker



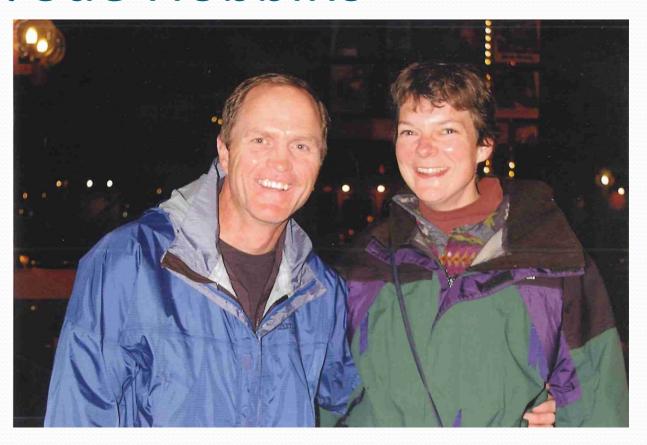
Wayne

- Diagnosed at 62 years of age
- Unskilled carpenter
- Fairly good photographer
- A grandfather
- A husband

Wayne

A traveler, still on a journey

Bill & Sue Hobbins



Sue & Bill

- Sue was diagnosed when she was 40 years old
- Sue was a physical therapist
- Sue & Bill are very "outdoorsy"
- Family History father passed away in his 50's from dementia and uncle and aunt also had disease

Alzheimer Society of Alberta & NWT – Edmonton Regional Office

- Provides Early Stage Support Groups and an Early Onset Support Group
- Begin with 6 week group, 1x week for 1 hour (based on program by Robyn Yale)
- Move to monthly group 1x month for 1.5 hours

6 Week Early Stage Group Topics

- Session 1 Introductions
- Session 2 The Brain and Memory Problems
- Session 3 "Working Together" Video
- Session 4 Changes and Feelings (loss & grief)
- Session 5 Reminiscing
- Session 6 Summary and Hope for the Future

Early Onset Monthly Group

- Group is offered in the evening as some people with the disease and many of the care partners still work.
- We have two Early Onset Groups at same time, one being early stage the other a respite group.
- Occasionally we have speakers come in to the early onset group.



living and transforming with loss & grief

An inspirational guide for persons with early-stage memory loss and their partners in care

A "By Us For Us" Guide

Loss & Grief

 Living and transforming with loss & grief (A "By Us For Us" Guide)

 Facilitator leads discussion on losses and grief in both the early stage and early onset group

Care Partner Group

- Care partner group is offered at the same time
- Care partners from both groups meet together
- Group is a closed group
- Care partners can attend without spouse

Transportation

 We have funding to provide transportation to the families who would not be able to attend due to driving issues.

History

- We have been offering Early Stage Support Groups for over 10 years
- In 2004 we started offering care partner groups at the same time
- In 2005 we started the ongoing groups instead of just the 6 week program

Current Statistics

- We offer four ongoing Early Stage Support Groups monthly
- We offer 4 5, six-week early stage programs per year

Need for Early Onset & Early Stage Groups

- More people are being diagnosed earlier
- Allows people with the disease to meet with others who have been diagnosed and share information
- Early Onset allows those who are younger a chance to meet people of similar age who have similar concerns

Gaps

- Need referrals from health professionals when people are in the early stages
- People in very early stages and their care partners may not see need for support

Questions

