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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – James is a working caregiver. He and his wife are employed full time and his 87-year-old grandmother has lived with him and his family for three years. His grandmother recently was diagnosed with dementia and is having difficulty remembering daily tasks, including how to bathe and dress herself. Her personal safety also has become a concern. James now must decide how to provide the best care for his grandmother.

James' story is becoming more and more typical, since in any given year more than 50 million Americans provide some level of care giving services and more than 85 percent of those caregivers are family members.

To recognize and support these important members of our community, Sedgwick County Department on Aging and Central Plains Area Agency on Aging (SCDOA/CPAAA), will celebrate National Family Caregivers Month in November and encourage citizens to ““Speak Up” During National Family Caregivers Month” - talk to your family, friends and neighbors; share information with other caregivers; and seek out support, including professional and social support that will benefit both you and your loved one(s).

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In James' case, he was able to access support and resources from the SCDOA, including respite, a support group, referrals to Meals on Wheels and other local services, and information about assisted living for his mother.

"The Department on Aging is pleased to have this opportunity to formally recognize and celebrate the valuable role that caregivers play, and we hope those who know or work with a caregiver will take time to do the same," said Annette Graham, Director of Sedgwick County Department on Aging/Central Plains Area Agency on Aging.

Caregiver Events Scheduled for November:

- From 7 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3: "Care for the Caregiver" panel discussion at Rockwell Library, 5939 E. 9th Street, Wichita
- From 1 to 2 p.m., Thursday, November 12: Central Plains Area Agency on Aging will sponsor a webinar on "How to Prevent Medication Mishaps" at 2622 W. Central, suite 500, Wichita. To RSVP for the webinar, contact Conni at 660-5153.

Sedgwick County Department on Aging/ Central Plains Area Agency on Aging is available to assist caregivers and seniors through life's transitions and with various levels of support. For more information about programs that can help you or a loved one, contact 660-5120 or 800-367-7298 or visit us online at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

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