



## NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

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## Memory Care Home Solutions Gala Highlights Family Caregiver Support

**St. Louis, November 18, 2023** - Celebrating its 20th Anniversary and National Family Caregivers Month, Memory Care Home Solutions (MCHS) marked a successful Annual Gala and Auction, raising over \$250,000 to assist families managing dementia at home. This milestone year showcased MCHS's significant role in supporting individuals with dementia and their families, attracting attention from legislators, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation, pharmaceutical companies, and health systems.

Jill Cigliana, Executive Director of MCHS, spoke on the broad impact of dementia, saying, "Dementia affects not only the individual but also their spouse, children, grandchildren, and friends. A generic approach is inadequate."

MCHS, amidst the focus on finding a cure for Alzheimer's and dementia, offers an optimistic outlook. The gala highlighted extensive research on non-pharmacological dementia treatments, supporting family caregivers. These treatments face challenges in practical implementation due to healthcare system limitations, a gap MCHS strives to bridge. Notably, most dementia care is provided at home by family and friends, predominantly low-income women balancing child and elder care. Additionally, Black and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately affected by dementia. MCHS, supported by donors, aims to reach those in greatest need.

The event recognized new advancements in dementia care, treatment, and research, offering families more management options. Recent developments include blood tests and novel drug therapies for Alzheimer's, facilitating early detection and treatment. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also introduced the GUIDE Model, a pilot care model enabling dementia patients to stay in their communities.

Cigliana stated, "Memory Care Home Solutions is at the forefront of this care model. We are committed to amplifying family caregivers' voices and introducing a GUIDE test site in St. Louis."

The gala, attended by nearly 300 guests, including partners from Washington University, Eisai Pharmaceuticals, Esse Health, and other dementia-focused nonprofits, celebrated this year's significant progress.

### About MCHS

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, MCHS enhances the dignity and quality of life for people with dementia and their families. Founded in 2002, MCHS has reached over 300,000 individuals through dementia navigation, in-home occupational therapy, and counseling. It provides community and professional education to elevate care standards, envisioning accessible, exceptional care for all living with dementia and their care partners. Learn more at [www.memorycarehs.org](http://www.memorycarehs.org).