



## News Announcement

### BEYOND DEMENTIA COALITION ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL DEMENTIA SYMPOSIUM

Gainesville, GA (April 7, 2025) – Local nonprofit organization Beyond Dementia Coalition announces the organization will partner with the Alzheimer’s Association Georgia Chapter to present the second annual Northeast Georgia Dementia Symposium on September 30, 2025. Lakewood Baptist Church will host the event again this year in Gainesville, GA.

The Northeast Georgia Dementia Symposium is a one-day event bringing together experts on an array of dementia-related topics as a means to increase community awareness about dementia and provide dementia knowledge to dementia caregivers as well as members of the community at large. Beyond Dementia Coalition is strategically oriented towards community awareness and dementia education as part of its mission to reduce stigma and help everyone embrace those living with dementia as valued and beloved members of the community.

“Dementia diagnoses are projected to double nearly every 20 years, if reality follows predicted trends over the next several generations,” said Bill Wittel, the organization’s CEO. “We detect an urgent and growing dementia preparedness gap, and our symposium is an important step in closing that gap.” Wittel cites a shrinking healthcare workforce, limited dementia content in occupational training, a disproportionate level of caregiver education relative to the prevalence and intensity of care, and insufficient support for family caregivers as factors limiting preparedness.

In 2024 the two organizations debuted the symposium, drawing over 350 attendees, students, and volunteers to hear 25 dementia thought leaders deliver lectures, workshops, a dementia simulation and even improvisational comedy. The inaugural symposium earned high marks (4.8 out of 5.0) for both content and venue.

Wittel believes that presenting this event to the public, without any cost of admission, demonstrates the organization’s commitment to its mission. “The fact is, eventually dementia will touch possibly all of us as a family member, a neighbor, co-worker, or friend of someone living with dementia. If we all were able to recognize dementia and could support someone with it, or their caregiver, in some small way then our communities can become more resilient to the impacts of dementia over time.”

Beyond Dementia Coalition seeks sponsors and exhibitors to share in the event costs. For more information on sponsorship, exhibitors, speakers and presentations, registration, or volunteering please visit <https://beyonddementiacoalition.org/events/symposium2025/>

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