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Contact: Ellen Phipps, Executive Director  
ephipps@agingtogether.org  
540-829-6405  
PO Box 367  
Culpeper, VA 22701

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Aging Together announces 2-day Fall Virtual Conference/Exhibition for Caregivers**

Caring for a person who is living with dementia can be a very rewarding job – but, it can also be challenging. Regardless if one is a healthcare professional or a family caregiver, the task can be made so much less daunting with some helpful strategies. The Piedmont Dementia Education Committee is a group of local healthcare providers and interested parties who come together to offer educational programs and workshops on the subject of caregiving, including an annual conference. The 2-day conference, **“A Positive Approach to Dementia”**, be held via Zoom on October 12 and 13, 2021 from 10am to 3:30pm made possible with support from both Culpeper Wellness Foundation and the Virginia Geriatric Education Center.

The conference will host seven program speakers with current subjects including resiliency, overcoming social isolation, Parkinson’s disease, grief and guilt, community resources and optimizing body, mind and spirit.

The highlight is keynote speaker, Melanie Bunn, who will speak both days on a positive approach to Dementia Care. Melanie is a Speaker and Mentor with Teepa’s Snow’s Positive Approach to Care®, (Teepa Snow is a foremost expert nationally on Alzheimer’s Disease care and has previously facilitated several conferences in our region). She is a skilled and experienced advanced practice nurse and nurse educator, conducting over 200 presentations and trainings annually to health professionals, community organizations, first responders, families and others.

“We are excited about this virtual event which will include an online exhibition hall”, says Ellen Phipps, Executive Director of Aging Together. “It’s an amazing first for us: we’ve successfully done dozens of virtual caregiver programs in response to the pandemic. Now we’re stepping it up a notch with an exhibition-based conference.” “We want to reach as many people in our region as possible. We know there is still fear about large in-person events. Our goal is to continue our tradition and find a way to make this conference widely available to both professional and family caregivers; and to highlight organizations who may offer services and products that make life less challenging.”, adds Phipps.

The conference is free to Family Caregivers. The fee to attend for professional caregivers is \$25 which includes two-day access to all programs and the exhibition hall. CEUs are also available for \$35. The conference programs will be recorded and available after the event for anyone who has registered.

Exhibitor fees are \$50 per booth for two days. There is also limited opportunity for 12 Event Sponsors so anyone interested should get their spot asap!

Anyone interested in participating as an attendee, exhibitor, or sponsor should go to Aging Together's website or contact them at [info@agingtogether.org](mailto:info@agingtogether.org).

The Piedmont Dementia Education Committee is made up of representatives from local agencies and volunteers and includes Capital Caring; Culpeper Baptist Church Adult Day Center; Culpeper Library; First Light Home Care; Harbor at Renaissance; Healthy Steps; Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services.

(Photo follows/p 3)

*The mission of aging together is, through partnerships, to connect people to communities and resources to improve quality of life as we age. Aging together serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock.*

[www.agingtogether.org](http://www.agingtogether.org)

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Photo follows



Melanie Bunn