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**Alzheimer's Association Offers Arts Engagement and Involvement
for those Affected by Alzheimer's and Dementia
*Investors Bank Grants \$3000 to Support Programs***

ROBBINSVILLE, New Jersey – The men begin to gather at 1p.m. on Thursday afternoon at the REC Center at the Alzheimer's Association in Marlton. REC coordinator David Johnson has made the coffee and put out a few snacks – today it's pretzels and cookies – for the participants, who spend the first hour of their three at the center socializing and discussing the events of the day. Today's participants are all men, in the early stages of Alzheimer's. Johnson has news items projected up on the wall for discussion. He leads a discussion about the day's news items to kick things off.

This is just the beginning of one of a number of programs presented by the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter. According to Linda Coppinger, Executive Director South Jersey, the REC Center provides an ongoing opportunity for individuals in the early stages of dementia to actively participate in social engagement opportunities and meet with their peers.

Today's participants will witness Investors Bank Assistant Vice President/Marlton Branch Manager Angela Venti present two checks from the Investors Foundation and the Roma Bank Community Foundation totaling \$3,000 to Coppinger and Johnson in support of the Alzheimer's Association's comprehensive arts program.

The Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter applied for the grants from the Foundations, which support non-profit organizations that enrich the diverse communities served by Investors Bank; Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013.

“Our program, Xpressive Outlets for Persons With Dementia in Southern New Jersey,” said Coppinger, “is designed for those in the early stages through the end stages. One section provides our participants and their caregivers with free tickets to arts-related programs – plays, art exhibits, concerts, etc. The Music and Memory program is a trademarked program. Participants are given personalized iPods with music that makes sense – and memories – for them. So, if they respond to hymns, their iPod will have hymns, if it's swing music from the 1940s, that's what they receive.”

At the REC Center, Johnson schedules different programs, speakers, artists, etc., for each session. Coppinger explained that one day it might be a yoga instructor or a horticulturalist. Another day it might be an expert in recording oral history.

“The point,” said Coppinger, “is to get our participants to interact with each other and with the community. We provide a variety of options to appeal to various interests.”

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She said the organization piloted the program in southern New Jersey about six years ago. These participants must be self-sufficient and able to attend the sessions without a caregiver.

“There is an increasingly growing demand for services,” said Coppinger. “The grants from the Investors and Roma Foundations will enable us to provide the outlets to people affected by the disease, to enable them to engage in their best lives by using the arts as the vehicle to bring out their communication and other senses they may have lost or may be losing to the disease.”

In presenting the check, Venti said, “Investors Bank recognizes the role art and music can play in stimulating memories and communication among those with dementia. We hope these grants enable the Alzheimer's Association to continue and expand its program to help those who are coping with this disease.”

Photo Caption: Investors Bank's Angela Venti, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager – Marlton Office (back, left), presented two, \$1,500 checks to Linda Coppinger (back, right), Executive Director, South Jersey, Alzheimer's Association during one of the REC Center's programs, where REC coordinator David Johnson (standing at table) was leading participants Patrick, James and John in a discussion of current events.

About Investors Bank

Investors Bank is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With more than \$20 billion in assets and over 135 retail branches throughout New Jersey and New York, Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors' consumer banking services include complete deposit products, online banking, home equity loans and lines of credit and a full array of mortgage loans. Serving the business community, Investors provides deposit accounts, cash management services, business loans and lines of credit, and commercial real estate financing solutions to small and middle market companies, professional services firms, municipalities and other businesses. Investors Bank. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

About The Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. The Delaware Valley Chapter, headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the local arm of the national organization; regional and branch offices provide programs and services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder in Delaware, New Jersey, and Southeastern Pennsylvania. For more information, call the 24/7 Helpline at [800.272.3900](tel:800.272.3900).