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***Respite Vouchers Available for Caregivers in Need***

***Duke Family Support Program and Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging Team Up for Event***

Henderson NC - The Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is cosponsoring two events with The Duke Family Support Program in January to distribute respite vouchers to families caring for individuals with dementia. The first event will be held on **Tuesday, January 17th** at the Oxford Senior Center, 107 Lanier St, Oxford, NC.  The second event will be on **Wednesday, January 18th** at the Vance County Senior Center, 126 S. Garnett St, Henderson, NC.

Janeli Smith and Bobbi Matchar from the Duke Family Support Program will meet with caregivers of loved ones with dementia and offer counseling, education and/or respite vouchers. Funding for these events are provided by Project C.A.R.E. Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) is the only state-funded, dementia-specific support for families who take care of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias.

One component to Project C.A.R.E. is respite vouchers for family caregivers caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias in their home, who are not paid for their caregiving and who are age 18 or older. Priority is given to assist unpaid caregivers of individuals with the greatest social and economic needs, to caregivers who do not receive a respite break from any other funding source, as well as to those who have no regular source of funding for in-home assistance.

Respite vouchers are issued in amounts up to $500 per voucher. Caregivers receive a reimbursement for respite services upon receipt of completed signed record of respite (time sheets). Respite services may include in-home care, adult day care, group respite, institutional care, companion care or other emergency respite. Call Melissa Catlett, Family Caregiver Specialist at 252-436-2040 to make an appointment for one of these events.

Respite care is a key component of caregiver support that strengthens family systems while protecting the health and well-being of family caregivers as well as care recipients. Last summer the NC legislature expanded funding for Project C.A.R.E. with 500,000 dollars to use towards family caregiver support services, including respite care for caregivers.

The Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging leads and is involved in the efforts that provide for the development and enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based systems of services, opportunities, and protections for older adults which assist them in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. We serve five counties, Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren.

For more information about the Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging, please call 252-436-2040.

**Diane Cox**

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