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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT MEMORY MATTERS UTAH/NEVADA DEMENTIA ACTIVITY SERVICES

ST. GEORGE, UT — August 4, 2017 Memory Matters Utah/Nevada received grants from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation and the George S. and Dolores Dore' Eccles Foundation in support of senior memory loss and dementia activity programs. Memory Matters Utah/Nevada is a local non-profit organization that meets the growing needs of seniors experiencing memory loss due to Alzheimer's disease and Dementia.

"The grants, along with local donations, are helping to fund the creation of a local dementia activity center licensed as an Adult Day Care Center," said LuAnn Lundquist, Memory Matters Founder and Executive Director. "The first phase has been active for several years as an activity group providing day services on a limited basis at the St. George, Utah Senior Center. The second and current phase is the remodeling of leased space to provide licensed Adult Day Care services up to 5 days per week and 9 hours per day. This Adult Day Care is based on a social model and involves only adults with disabilities consistent with memory loss." The grants from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation and the George S. and Dolores Dore' Eccles Foundation has facilitated the acquisition and inclusion of items for the Dementia Activity Center including: tables, chairs, recliners, cabinets and media center. In addition, iPods and headphones were acquired for use in the Music and Memory Program as reminiscence therapy; and computer tablets and software to provide cognitive training to clients with early stage memory loss and cognitive entertainment in activity classes. The use of tablets along with personal instruction serves to assist clients with both retaining and improving cognitive skills and aid caregivers with developing successful short and long-term care strategies. The ongoing work with seniors continues to build on successful Memory Matters programs that include the Early Stage Memory Loss Education Series and Caregivers Support Groups; and is helping to further develop and solidify programs for the upcoming Dementia Activity Center.

Lundquist said, "Staff and volunteers at Memory Matters are currently working with 12 caregivers and 5 clients with dementia, testing the project and giving input preparatory to the full-scale launch in September." She added, "The majority of those being served are from rural communities in the southwest corner of Utah and Arizona as well as the southeast corner of Nevada. We are also sharing the information gained from the initial launch with caregiver support groups and including the material in community presentations and education."

The Sorenson Legacy Foundation and the George S. and Dolores Dore' Eccles Foundation support of the project has been crucial in helping Memory Matters Utah/Nevada to accomplish their mission by providing better cognitive education to their clients experiencing memory loss and providing information and assistance to their caregivers.

If you would like more information about Memory Matters Utah or sponsored programs and services, call us at: 435-319-0407; or email us at: memorymattersutah@gmail.com

Memory Matters Utah/Nevada is 501(c)(3), local, nonprofit organization. Our mission is to reduce isolation and improve wellness for individuals with dementia and their caregivers through activities, support, education and consultation. Learn more at: www.memorymattersutah.org