

Who We Are

Connection for Caregivers is provided by the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging (CMAA), a private non-profit organization established to identify and serve the needs of elders and caregivers in Central Massachusetts. Financial Support under the Older Americans Act provided by:

- Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs
- United States Administration on Aging

Other funding comes from:

- Private corporations
- Foundations
- Individual donors

Our Service Area



Join Our Team

Financial and volunteer contributions are always gratefully accepted. If you would like to help support our work with your time or with a tax-deductible contribution, please contact us at:

Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging

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♿ An EOE/AA employer

Photography by John Belding

**YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
GO IT
ALONE!**



Go to
www.SeniorConnection.org
and click on
Connection for Caregivers

CONNECTION



FOR CAREGIVERS

A website dedicated to the needs
of those who help
older relatives and friends.

Click Here for Help

People who care for elders face special challenges in their lives. The additional time requirements and stress of coping with a loved one's changing medical and social needs takes its toll. But help is available.

You Don't Have to Go It Alone!

Caregivers now have an online resource, linked through the SeniorConnection website. Go to www.SeniorConnection.org and click on **Connection for Caregivers**. You'll find a wealth of information and interactive options to support you at home or at work.

How Can I Find Out More?

Come to the SeniorConnection website, click on Connection for Caregivers, and keep checking back. It's a fast way to find the answers you need when you need them. New online classes, chats and links to additional resources are added all the time.



www.SeniorConnection.org
Connection for Caregivers

CONNECTION

FOR CAREGIVERS

A Program of:

**SENIOR
CONNECTION**
Information for Seniors and Caregivers

Who is a Caregiver?

A caregiver can be a family member, friend or professional who provides physical, financial or emotional support for a relative or loved one whose daily activities are limited by diminished mental or physical function.

Caregivers may live with the elder or live nearby. Some may even live across the country. But no matter where they live, their responsibilities may include providing personal care or finding and managing supplemental care in the local community. They may organize an elder's home health care services, transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping or other chores, or help manage finances.

People over 85 are the fastest growing segment of our population. And half of them need some help with personal care. For the most part, that care is provided by family members.

Nearly 60 percent of all caregivers today are also employed outside the home. They may lose time at work to cope with health care or other emergencies. It's been estimated that businesses lose upwards of \$11 billion a year due to employees' need to care for a loved one aged 50 or older.

Most adult children do not recognize themselves as caregivers. They willingly accept additional responsibilities as a natural part of their relationship with the older person.

Does this sound like you?

What is the Connection?

Connection for Caregivers offers a home on the Internet for people balancing the demands of work and home responsibilities that include elder care. It's informative. It's interactive. And it's free!

The **Connection for Caregivers** offers online:

- Live monthly support group facilitated by a licensed social worker.
- Chat realtime with local professionals about Long-Term Care Insurance, Health Information Needs or Legal Assistance.
- Free classes to help you cope with your concerns, such as medication, nutrition & elder housing.
- Ongoing peer support group for informal support from others facing similar challenges, available online anytime, day or night.
- Articles by experts in the "**Four Corners**" section, featuring four articles each month on medical and legislative issues, ways to maintain your well-being, plus a spotlight on resources available for elders and caregivers. Previous months' articles are archived for easy searching.
- "**The Caregivers' Guide**," an extensive resource guide for caregivers facing new decisions on behalf of older friends or family members, available to download.
- Calendar of events of interest to caregivers and their families.
- Questions answered by email when you're not sure where else to turn.
- **Connection for Caregivers** is a community effort. We welcome new ideas from you, our partners.

Connection for Caregivers is part of **SeniorConnection**, a website packed with information for anyone dealing with elder service needs. It includes a searchable database with more than 1,800 agencies, programs and services for elders and caregivers, favorite links to useful Internet sources, information about specific services provided by the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging and its periodic newsletter.