ACT on Alzheimer’s Chanhassen participates in youth art project
Chanhassen ACT on Alzheimer’s

• Action Team convened August 2015
• 17 members - representing local government, financial services, health care, residential care, caregiver support, faith communities, library
• Currently ACT Together (Phase 4)
  – Community awareness and education
  – Resource Guide
  – Exploring Drop-in Center/Memory Café
Bringing Alzheimer’s Awareness to Children

• Prior Learning Summit alerted ACT team to other communities reading to children about Alzheimer’s
• Attempts made at local schools without much success.
• In 2016 Bluff Creek Elementary initiated Project Impact with goal to “build culture of service by enabling students to use their talents and passions to serve others.”
Bringing Alzheimer’s Awareness to Children

• Project Impact involved 30 community partners and 200 fourth and fifth graders.
• Joint effort between “A Better Society Nonprofit, Chanhassen” and “Eastern Carver County Schools”.
• 22 service projects were chosen.
Project Impact projects

• Knitting hats for premature babies
• Raising money for ShelterBox
• Open Arms – grocery bags decorating
• East Union School – book collection
• United Heroes League – sports equipment
• PROP – food drive
• Chanhassen Seniors - tea
• Intergenerational art project to raise awareness for Alzheimer’s
How we started

- In autumn 2016, students at Bluff Creek Elementary participated in talent inventory to identify student’s interests.
- Students who indicated they enjoyed spending time with seniors and had an interest in art were chosen to participate in Alzheimer’s Art project.
- Chanhassen Senior Center was approached to send a couple of seniors to participate in project.
- Project literally “fell into our laps”.
How we started

• Initial meeting involved approximately 12 students, 2 seniors and one parent project manager.

• Discussion centered on:
  – What is Alzheimer's disease?
  – What is Alzheimer’s logo?
  – Alzheimer’s colors?
  – Type of “art” work to create and mediums to use.
Opportunities for Communication

• How to explain Alzheimer’s to young people without scaring them.
• Allowing students to ask questions rather than volunteering too much information too quickly.
• Letting students identify what they wanted to create and the mediums they wanted to use.
Students and seniors partner

• Second meeting - students and seniors meet to discuss whether to “paint” or “draw” to interpret Alzheimer’s.
• One boy insisted he wanted to create plaster of paris brain.
• Seniors enabled students to make own decisions on type of art to create.
Challenge for seniors

• Alzheimer's Art - plentiful on web.

• Should art examples be used as inspiration or have students come up with own ideas in short time frame?
Invitations

Prior to “drawing day” students invite additional participants to create art together.

You are invited to an Art project with Bluff Creek Elementary students

Come join us for art and conversation Thursday, May 11, 2017 11 am - 12 pm Chanhassen Rec. Center RM #4 RSVP to Sue Bill at SBill@ci.chanhassen.mn.us
Students and seniors partner

- Students, seniors, and members of ACT on Alzheimer's team create canvases.
- Canvases were either blank or had letters spelling “ACT ON ALZHEIMER’S”.

[Images of students and seniors working on canvases]
Creating canvases
Creating canvases
Creating canvases
Creating canvases
Creating canvases
Creating canvases
Creating canvases
Plaster of Paris brain
Unique art examples

All created unique canvases.
Art canvases
Project Impact Participants
Students display art work to the community
Students display art work to community

Denny Laufenburger, Mayor of Chanhassen, views students’ projects.
Students present art to ACT on Alzheimer’s team
Chanhassen Expo showcases Alzheimer’s art

• Artwork showcased during July 4th Chanhassen celebrations.
• People drawn to booth to view artwork, ask questions and take handout materials.
Outreach Materials

- Forget me not seeds
- Basics of Alzheimer’s Disease
- Alzheimer’s Care Giver Assistance Card
- Round-the-clock Alzheimer’s disease information and support
- Take Care of Yourself
- 10 ways to help a family living with Alzheimer’s
- 10 tips for living with Alzheimer’s
- Concerned about Memory? So are we
- Resources
- Bookmark
- Post it
- Care Consultation
- Alzheimer’s and Dementia Caregiver Center
- Six out of 10 people with Alzheimer’s will wander
- Know the 10 Signs
Alzheimer’s art to become “Alzheimer's quilt”

• “Quilt” to be displayed at all future ACT events.
• Participants will be encouraged to create their own contribution to the “quilt”.
• Vision for the “quilt” – to grow indefinitely!
Contact Information

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Questions?