Bluegrass Care Navigators has received a $1 million grant to support Kentuckians who have Alzheimer’s disease and their families. The award comes from the federal Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging, under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Bluegrass Care Navigators is one of 13 organizations in the nation awarded the grant and the only one in Kentucky.

The grant is intended to address gaps in services for Kentuckians with Alzheimer’s and age-related dementia, and caregivers of those with the disease. With the funding, Bluegrass Care Navigators will develop programs to support people with Alzheimer’s who live alone, or have intellectual or developmental disabilities. Additionally, training will be provided to help caregivers cope with the stress of caregiving responsibilities.

“Our major goal is to support caregivers, and help families avoid institutionalization of loved ones living with Alzheimer’s or dementia,” said Susan Swinford, Bluegrass Care Navigators Vice President of Administration. “With our team of physicians, nursing professionals, social workers and chaplains, and with our strong healthcare partners across the state, Bluegrass Care Navigators is uniquely positioned to address these special needs.”

Bluegrass Care Navigators plans to enroll at least 190 patients and caregivers in the program in the first year and serve an additional 370 patients and caregivers in each of the next two years. The program will serve 930 Kentuckians in 32 counties across northern, central and eastern Kentucky.

Enrollees should experience fewer hospitalizations, emergency department visits and institutionalizations, and caregivers should experience reduced feelings of burden and depression.

To achieve these goals and outcomes, Bluegrass Care Navigators has partnered with a coalition of health providers across the state, including: UK HealthCare; University of Kentucky Sanders-Brown Center on Aging; Bluegrass Area Development District Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living; Easterseals Cardinal Hill; Baptist Health Group Memory Care Clinic; Baptist Health Lexington; Baptist Health Corbin; CHI Saint Joseph Health; and Appalachian Regional Healthcare.

To learn more about this grant and all the latest news, visit the Bluegrass Blog at: bgcarenav.org/more-about-us/blog
Volunteer Spotlight:
The Davis Family

John Davis retired early and wanted to spend his time doing something to help people.

“I’ve had family who were helped by hospice, so I just stopped in the Barbourville office one day and it grew from there,” John says.

It didn’t take long for his 9-year-old son, Lucas, to start helping his dad on the weekends. Then mom, Carol, joined them.

“We call them The Davis Family Trio! They’re just incredible,” says Christal Hall, Community Engagement Coordinator.

The family makes volunteering a family project, and their giving spirit has made a lasting impact on the lives of so many hospice patients and their families across Southeast Kentucky.

“There is nothing that this family will not do,” Christal says. “I called one day about a patient that was craving vegetable soup. Carol made it and they delivered it the same day. John often drives more than an hour to sit with patients in Harlan County, and he has planted flowers, winterized a tractor and dug up potatoes. Anything our patients need, they will do.”

John says he is willing to do whatever is needed, but his favorite volunteer activity is spending time with the patients.

“I like just sitting and talking. A lot of the time they just don’t have anyone else,” John says.

We are grateful to the Davis family for all they do for our patients and families. “Their endless dedication, love and support are appreciated more than they will ever know,” Christal says.

At Bluegrass Care Navigators, we depend on our team of volunteers. Last year, volunteers donated 29,135 hours, which equals a cost savings to the agency of $715,919. If you are interested in volunteering with Bluegrass Care Navigators, please go to bgcarenav.org/more-about-us/volunteer.
Hazard Howled on Halloween!
Ghost, goblins and lots of other kooky characters danced the night away at the Hazard Howlin’ Halloween Bash in October to support our patients and their families. Thank you, Hazard!

Adient Honors Employee
Dozens of golfers teed off at Georgetown’s Longview Golf Course this fall to pay tribute to former Adient employee Greg Inman. Colleagues named the golf scramble in his honor and pledged to raise as much possible to support BCN for the care he received by his Bluegrass Hospice Care team. Thank you!

Stretching for BCN
Lots of yoga enthusiasts enjoyed a complimentary yoga class at Mercedes Benz of Fort Mitchell and made donations to support our Northern Kentucky patients. Thank you to Cheryl Sullivan for planning the event and leading the yoga class!

Lila’s Final Wish
Kristin, a social worker at Bluegrass Care Navigators, recalls a special patient and helping her final wish come true:

“I’ll never forget the moment that Lila saw her grandchildren walking toward her bed. Tears poured down her face as she reached out her arms to them. It was beautiful to watch Lila get her final wish. You see, Lila was raising her four grandchildren on her own when she became seriously ill and was admitted to Bluegrass Hospice Care. There were no other family members able to care for the children, so they were placed in different foster homes. From the moment I met Lila, all she talked about was seeing her grandbabies one more time.

As her care team, we wanted to make her wish come true. It wasn’t easy. We had to work with state authorities and the foster parents to get permission for the visit and to arrange a time for them to gather at their grandma’s bedside. But we made it happen – we had to, for Lila. The children brought her flowers, cards and their most recent school picture. Lila gave them each their favorite candy. They took pictures together on the bed. They said their final good-byes.

Lila was holding on for this time spent with her grandbabies. Shortly after their visit, she left this world – with closure and in peace.”

Your support helps provide comforting care to patients, like Lila. Please donate today. You may mail your gift with the enclosed envelope or give online at give.bgcarenav.org/donate. Thank you!

Wishlists: 3 Ways
Our patients depend on the generous in-kind gifts we receive from our community. This holiday season, please consider checking off one of the items on our Wishlists and help a patient in need.

There are three easy ways to help:
1. AmazonSmile Charity Wishlist: amazon.com/gp/clpf
   Search “Bluegrass Care Navigators”.
   Please email us at give@bgcarenav.org to let us know that you provided an item from the list so we can thank you!
2. Visit: give.bgcarenav.org/wishlists
3. Email Us: give@bgcarenav.org
WE HONOR VETERANS. At Bluegrass Care Navigators, we have a program dedicated to our patients who are veterans to meet the needs of and recognize this special group of men and women. Services range from matching a volunteer who is a veteran with a patient to providing blankets personalized with their branch of service.

We are a proud participant in the We Honor Veterans Program, a national hospice provider awareness campaign conducted by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a partner, we will continue to promote and improve the quality of care for veterans in our community.

You can help! If you would like to volunteer or provide supplies for our Veterans Program, please contact us at give@bgcarenav.org or visit bgcarenav.org/more-about-us/volunteer.