**OLD FRIENDS CLUB ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

Old Friends Club is a social-model, dementia-focused daytime respite program. We do not have medical staff or address medical needs. We do offer some assistance to help Members remain at the Club as long as they are able to socially engage.

**Program Eligibility**: Potential members are often otherwise socially isolated, yet are able to engage in structured group activities, with or without some support and encouragement.

Those appropriate for the program typically have some form of cognitive or communication impairment due to effects of Alzheimer’s or other dementia, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury, Aphasia, Parkinson’s

Some need for assistance with ADLs is acceptable:

Ambulation: We can offer reasonable assistance for stability and safety for those needing extra support, visual guidance or as needed for those using a cane, walker or wheelchair.

Transfers: We offer minimal contact assistance for transfers. (Member bears own weight, but needs guidance for initiation, balance or stability.)

Toileting: We offer cueing, some hygiene assistance, and help with clothing.

Eating: We can assist with cutting, spreading and arranging food for independent eating.

The need for assistance often grows as diseases progress. *Mutual* communication with the family regarding changes is important to make adjustments and plan for future transitions.

**Program Ineligibility or Reasons for Discharge include:**

Inability to engage in activities

Need for more than minimal contact assistance with transfers

High fall risk

Need for medication during program hours. (Self-administration is okay if clearly capable. Family must remain in communication regarding changes in medications taken at the program and member’s ability to self-administer.)

Medical or dietary needs that cannot be addressed in the program

Inability to self-feed

Exit-seeking (Exit-seeking behavior often disappears once Member is comfortable at the Club.)

Aggression (A trial period is useful. Aggression at home is often not seen at the Club.)

Frequent incontinence

Other behaviors that detract from or jeopardize the program as a whole.

**Visit:** Families are encouraged to arrange a visit to the program prior to enrolling. This allows the potential Member to experience the group, the family caregiver to assess and ask questions, and staff to assess the potential Member’s needs and fit with the group.

**Registration:** Registration documents include preliminary assessment of the Member’s needs, interests, any worrying behaviors, and medical issues. The registration also requests a copy of the Member’s POLST, acknowledgment of policies, and photo release.

**Attendance:** Consistent attendance at least twice weekly helps the Member to establish a routine, reduce anxiety and build trust and comfort with staff and fellow Members. Attendance two or more days per week strongly correlates to greater success for participants over one day per week.