

Dana D. Ferrito

thememorywhisperer@gmail.com

Education

Certificate of Gerontology, 2013

Archdiocesan Spirituality Center/New Orleans, LA

Studies: Spirituality

Completed 2011 – Spiritual Director Credentials

St. Joseph Seminary College, St. Benedict, LA

Religious Studies Master Catechist

Date of Graduation: August, 2000

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

1976-78; English Education Major

Work

Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area

3772 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 * (225) 334-7494

Director of Services July, 2008 – December, 2018

Experience

- Oversee Programs and Services for non-profit organization which serves individuals and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease
- Manage team of five Program employees
- Direct/coordinate activities and programming for two (2) Adult Respite Day Centers, *Charlie's Place*, including Licensing, Marketing, Intakes, and Admissions [Charlie's Place admits individuals with Alzheimer's and/or dementia-related disorders]
- Oversee/coordinate Caregiver Respite Reimbursement Program, including inquiries, applications, and check reimbursements
- Prepare reports and assessments
- Write material for media, grants and publications
- Speaker/Instructor – Dementia Care Training
- Attendance at Health Fairs, Exhibitions, and Speaking Engagements
- Assist in daily Helpline phone calls
- Has secured thousands in revenue from grant writing for funding of programs for organization
- Train/Oversee Service Learning program and collaboration with LSU, OLOL College and BRCC

St. Jude Catholic Church, Baton Rouge, LA

9150 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 * (225) 766-2431

Director of Ministries July, 2001 – July, 2008

- Direct/manage 42 diversified ministries of church parish; train ministry participants; conduct presentations
- Plan and coordinate parish events and liturgical celebrations; grief support, memorial and funeral services
- Oversee volunteer base of over 500 people
- Maintain parish Master Calendar of campus events/meetings/schedules
- Maintain Ministry budget
- Coordinate and arrange travel activities & itineraries
- Create/publish/conduct ministry and outreach presentations
- Write/publish weekly bulletin
- Co-editor of parish quarterly newsletter
- Create/publish flyers & brochures for events/prepare reports and correspondence
- Plan, organize a team, oversee, and implement annual parish festival
- Administrative support in absence of pastor
- Supervise one Office Assistant

St. Jude Catholic School, Baton Rouge, LA

9150 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 * (225) 766-2431

*Director of Religious Education, Development Director, &
Technology Coordinator* August, 1997 – June, 2001

- Coordinated all school liturgies, prayer services and retreats, and outreach programs
- Maintained certification files on faculty/staff
- Directed/planned personnel and student retreats
- Managed religious education curriculum for school
- Managed Public Relations, grant writing and fund-raising
- Produced all school programs/conducted presentations
- Edited school newsletter
- Conducted tours of school
- Managed school's technology equipment
- Supervised volunteer technology team
- Installed computer programs; conducted faculty training
- Maintained complete inventory of school's computer equipment
- Organized/directed network wiring of school
- Served on School Advisory Board

Holy Family Catholic School, Port Allen, LA

Dir. of Development & Stewardship August, 1996 – July, 1997

- Directed parish programs regarding three-part Stewardship program
- Directed/managed annual fund drive
- Produced/edited quarterly newsletter
- Managed school Foundation
- Managed/recruited volunteers
- Directed all areas of Public Relations
- Published brochures/various materials for school and church

Ollie Steele Burden Manor Nursing Home, Baton Rouge, LA

Activity Director/Alzheimer's Unit January, 1990 – August, 1996

- Part of team that coordinated and opened the FIRST Alzheimer's unit in Baton Rouge
- Planned/coordinated all activities for residents on Alzheimer's Unit
- Assisted families in Family Support Programs
- Produced/maintained monthly activity calendar
- Editor, quarterly nursing home magazine
- Managed/directed activities of all volunteers
- Created/conducted employee presentations
- Served as liaison with the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Mission Task Force
- Served as Volunteer for local Alzheimer's organization

Interests, Memberships and Activities

- Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
 - 1995-1998 -*Memory Walk Public Relations Chair, Part of team that started the FIRST Walk for Alzheimer's in Baton Rouge*
 - 1998-01 -*Memory Walk/A Walk to Remember Chair and Co-Chair*
 - 2001- -*Speaker, Spring Educational Conference, Alzheimer's Services,*
 - 2001--2004-07 -*A Walk/Run to Remember, Publicity*
 - 2004-07 - *Grant Writing/Public Relations Volunteer*
 - 2006-07 - *Advisory Panel, Respite Center Planning*
 - 1995-2008 - *Volunteer*
 - 2006-Present -*Walk/Run To Remember Team Captain*
- 1999 – 2003 - St. Jude School Community Cougars - 7th/8th grade service organization - *Founder/Moderator*
- 1987-2015 - (Volunteer) St. Jude Catholic Church Fair Core Committee
- 2001-2005 - (Volunteer) Gardere Lane Kids Activity Center, [for at-risk kids]
- 1987-2007 - Ollie Steele Burden Manor, (Volunteer Companion to Resident)
- 2006 - Board Member, Louisiana Arts & Artists Guild
- 2008 - Member, Louisiana Watercolor Society
- 2009- Volunteer, Louisiana State Alzheimer's disease Task Force
- 2009-Present - Louisiana Volunteers in Action (LAVA); Department of Health and Hospitals
- 2009-2014 – Board Member, National Adult Day Services Association; Conference Awards Committee Chairperson
- 2009 - State Certified Dementia Curriculum - partnered with LSU's Dr. Katie Cherry and Dr. Neila Donovan to compose an 8-hour required curriculum for dementia training in nursing homes; FIRST to be certified in the State of Louisiana
- 2011 –2015 – Board Member/Secretary - LEADER [Louisiana] – *Louisiana Enhancing Aging with Dignity Through Empowerment and Respect*; Committee Chairperson, Summit Planning
- 2012-Present – Louisiana State Dementia Workgroup Coalition through CMS – goal: reduction of antipsychotic medications given to residents with dementia in nursing homes
- 2011-Present - Instructor, LSU Olli Lagniappe Studies - Wrote curriculum, "It Matters to Your Brain" -- 6-week course
- 2012-2015 – Dementia Workshop Planning Committee; Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge, Marriage and Family Life Department
- 2013-Present – Columnist, *Alzheimer's Q & A*, The Advocate (weekly), Baton Rouge, LA
- 2014 –2015 - Volunteer, *The Crossing* (In-patient Hospice facility)
- 2014 -2015 –Executive Committee, (Secretary) - LEADER
- 2014 –2016 - Writer/Contributor - *The Brain Wellness Newsletter*/Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2013- 2015 - Education Committee Member/Awards Chairperson – National Adult Day Services Association
- 2016-2018– The Pioneer Network (National Culture Change Group); Communications Committee Member
- 2016-Present - AARP of Louisiana-Live at Home/LA Coalition
- 2018 – Development Campaign Committee Member; St. Joseph Congregation

- 2019-Present – Stephen Ministry Leader, St. Aloysius Church, Baton Rouge
(*Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.*)
- 2019-Present – Volunteer – Hospice in His Care
- 2019-Present – Community Educator/Alzheimer’s Association/LA Chapter

Awards and Commendations

- 1993 and 1994 - “Top 5 Activity Programs for the Elderly in State of Louisiana” (at Ollie Steele Burden Manor) by the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs
- 1994 - Activity Director of the Year, by the Activity Professional Association of Louisiana
- 1994 – Louisiana Nursing Home Association Region II Activity Director of the Year
- 2001 – “Outstanding Service as a Catholic School Educator” by the National Catholic Educational Association
- 2003- Baton Rouge, LA Honoree “*Where Service Matters*” Award – in recognition of Volunteer Contributions to Alzheimer’s organization
- 2005 – Top Individual Fundraiser/Alzheimer’s Services “A Walk/Run to Remember”
- 2008- *Charlie’s Place*, National Adult Day Services Association’s Day Center of the Year [Director]
- 2009 – Solaris Award -Outstanding Community Outreach Program – Alzheimer’s *Lunch-n-Learn* Educational Sessions by the Greater Baton Rouge Family Road Association
- 2009/2011/2013/2016 - Alzheimer’s Foundation of America Excellence in Dementia Care Program of Distinction for *Charlie’s Place*
- 2012 - Poster Presentation Winner, *The Faces of Alzheimer’s Disease*; Louisiana Geriatric Society Annual Conference
- 2014 – Citizen Champion Award by LATAN (Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network) – for work in integrating technology with dementia population-the only day center (*Charlie’s Place*) in the State of Louisiana to have such technology
- 2016 – National Director Award, National Adult Day Services Association
- 2016 - Second Place/Top Fundraiser -Family Team - Alzheimer's Services "Walk/Run to Remember"
- 2017 - LSU C-Cell Award – *Charlie’s Place* Service Learning Program
- 2017 - Second Place/Top Fundraiser -Family Team - Alzheimer's Services "Walk/Run to Remember"
- 2017 - Lynette Fontenot Excellence in Inclusion Award by the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs.
- 2019 – 25-year Volunteer Service Award – Alzheimer’s Services of the Capital Area/Baton Rouge
- 2021 – Tandy Spirit Award for true commitment to service in her work– caregiving.com
- 2022 – Daily Point of Light Award – Points of Life Network
- 2022 – Seneca Women Podcasts to Hear – Selected as one in ten women to attend Seneca Women’s/iHeart Radio first podcast academy and to launch episodes of “The Memory Whisperer” on those platforms (<https://www.senecawomen.com/podcasts-academy>)

Presentations:

- 2001 *Activities for Alzheimer's Patients*
Alzheimer's Services Annual Conference
Baton Rouge, LA
- 2008/2009/2010 *Spirituality and Dementia*
-Alzheimer's Services "Maximize Your Memory Day"
Baton Rouge, LA
- Behavioral Management for Alzheimer's Patients*
Alzheimer's Services
-Lunch-n-Learn Educational Series
St. Elizabeth Hospital – Gonzales, LA
-St. Helena Council on Aging/St. Helena Parish, LA
- Communication with Alzheimer's Patients*
Alzheimer's Services
-Catholic Charities/Diocese of Baton Rouge
-Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center
Nursing Students/Service Learning Program
-Louisiana State University
Communications Disorders Class/Service Learning
Program
-Louisiana State University
Psychology Class/Service Learning Program
-Southern University
Rehabilitation Studies

-
- 2009 Co-developed & wrote curriculum with Louisiana State University for State Required Dementia Training in accordance with Legislative Act 571 for personnel in nursing homes and adult residential communities. Curriculum was first curriculum approved and certified in the State of Louisiana.
-

- 2010 Launched first 8-Hour Dementia Training Class; Served as Instructor for following topics:
- *Behavior Management of Alzheimer's Patients*
 - *Promoting independence in activities of daily living*
 - *Dealing with Family issues*

- 2010 Presenter - National Adult Day Services Association
National Conference; Raleigh, NC
Spirituality and Dementia: A Holistic Approach
-
- 2011 Converted Dementia Training Class to “Train-the-Trainer”
Curriculum. Continued serving as Instructor
-
- 2011 Instructor – *LSU Olli Lagniappe Studies: It Matters to Your Brain* (wrote curriculum) - 6 week course
- 2012 Presenter – Diocese of Baton Rouge/Marriage & Family Life
Dept./ Topic: *Dining and Dementia*
- 2012 Instructor/Curriculum creator – LSU Olli Lagniappe Studies: *It Matters to Your Brain* - 6 week course - Baton Rouge
-
- 2013 Presenter - Louisiana Nursing Home Association
Social Worker Training Workshop -
Untangling the String in Communication w/Alzheimer's
- 2013 Presenter - Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area
Lunch-n-Learn: *The B-word in Behavior is Not That Bad*
- 2013 Presenter - Baton Rouge General Mid-City
Tulane Medical School
Let's Talk About Alzheimer's
- 2013 Co-Presenter – Alzheimer’s Services Lunch-n-Learn
Baton Rouge, LA
Activities and Alzheimer’s
- 2013 Instructor - LSU Olli Lagniappe Studies
It Matters to Your Brain
6-week course/Ascension Parish, Louisiana
- 2014 Instructor - LSU Olli Lagniappe Studies
It Matters to Your Brain
6-week course/EBR Parish, Louisiana

- 2014 Co-Presenter – LEADER 2014 Summit
Marksville, LA
1) *Technology & Activities*
2) *Untangling Your String of Communication*
- 2014 Presenter – Louisiana Retired Teachers’ Association Conference
Marksville, LA
It Matters to Your Brain
- 2014 Presenter-Alzheimer’s Services Lunch-a-Learn
Baton Rouge and Plaquemine, LA
Dining and Dementia
- 2014 Co-Presenter-Alzheimer’s Services Lunch-a-Learn
Baton Rouge, LA
Activities for Alzheimer’s
- =====
- 2015 Presenter-Alzheimer’s Services Lunch-a-Learn
Baton Rouge, LA
Sorting Through the Word Salad
- 2015 Instructor – LSU Olli Lagniappe Studies/6 week course
Baton Rouge, LA
It Matters to Your Brain
- 2015 Co-Presenter – Pioneer Network National Conference
Chicago, IL
*The Good, The Bad and the Ugly; Finding the Rest of the Story
in Individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or Dementia*
- 2015 Presenter – Women’s Week
Greenoaks Funeral Home, Baton Rouge, LA
Alzheimer’s 101
- 2015 Co-Presenter – Dementia Training (5 Hours) in 25 Nursing Homes
Baton Rouge, Slidell, Lafayette, New Orleans, Hammond
Activities, Communication, Behaviors, & Person-Centered Care

-
- 2016 Instructor - LSU Olli Lagniappe Studies
It Matters to Your Brain
6-week course/Spring Semester/EBR Parish, Louisiana
- 2016 Presenter – Alzheimer’s Services Lunch – N- Learn
Music and Dementia
- 2016 Co-Presenter – National Pioneer Network Conference/New Orleans, LA
The Good, the Bad and The Ugly: Person-Centered Care
- 2016 Co-Presenter – National Adult Day Services Association/Indianapolis, IN
The Good, the Bad and The Ugly: Person-Centered Care
- Co-Presenter – National Adult Day Services Association/Indianapolis, IN
Aging Meets Technology
- 2015-2018 Presenter/Curriculum Developer
Louisiana Department of Health
Dementia Care Training
50 Louisiana Nursing Homes/annually
- 2017 Trainer, Carrington Place Nursing Home, Baton Rouge, LA
Monthly In-Service Trainings for Staff/Dementia Unit
- 2017 Presenter – Alzheimer’s Lunch-N-Learn- Baton Rouge & Gonzales, LA
Adjusting to Long Term Care
- 2017 Presenter –Veteran’s Administration- Baton Rouge, LA
Staff In-Service - Alzheimer’s Overview/Research/Medications
- 2017 Co-Presenter – American Society on Aging Conference, Chicago, IL
*Success Stories of a Social Model Respite Center for Alzheimer’s
& Dementia Care*
- 2017/18 Presenter – *Laughter Yoga* - Humana Wellness Center, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2018 Presenter – *Brain Healthy Lifestyles* – Humana Wellness Center, Baton Rouge
- 2019 Presenter – *The Spiritual Graces of Aging*- St. Joseph Congregation, Baton Rouge
- 2019 Presenter – *The Importance of Good Brain Health* – St. James Place, Baton Rouge

- 2019 Presenter- *The Journey of Caregiving* – St. Aloysius Church, Baton Rouge
- 2020 Presenter - *5 Habits to Help Prevent Alzheimer’s Disease* – Humana Wellness Center, Baton Rouge
- 2021 Presenter – Monthly ZOOM Alzheimer’s educational series to Ochsner Hospital *Golden Opportunities* (senior) Group
- 2022 Presenter (via Zoom) – *Caregiving Coaching* for Alzheimer’s Services of the Capital Area/Charlie’s Place, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2022 Presenter – *Filling in the Gaps* (How to have conversations with individuals with dementia, lending dignity and respect); St. Joseph Congregation, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2022 Presenter – *Broken, Burdened and Blessed*, (a Lenten reflection event to help transform all our brokenness and burdens to blessings): St. Aloysius Catholic Church Stephen Ministry, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2022 Facilitator/Organizer – *Aging Faithfully* by Alice Fryling, (a six-week book examination series for older adults exploring ways to navigate the journey of retirement, lifestyle changes, and new limitations); St. Jude Catholic Church, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2020-Present Community Educator/Alzheimer’s Association/LA Chapter – monthly Educational ZOOM presentations for caregivers and those affected by Alzheimer’s disease (Communication, Behavioral Challenges, Brain Healthy Lifestyles, 10 Warning Signs)

Poster Presentations/Abstract

1. Donovan, N.J., PhD; Pinas, C.M. & Territo, D. (2016, July) Does individualized music reduce agitation and confused responses in respite center clients? 2017 Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL (Poster)
2. Donovan, N.J., PhD; Dupre’ B.J., & Territo, D. (2016, July) Individualized music interevention to reduce agitation and increase communication in respite care. 2017 Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL (Poster)