## **HOW YOUR DONATION HELPS** Our community connections

Our Fridays with Farzan were full of positivity. His genuine curiosity and patience provided Doug with the opportunity to share memories and interests in a lovely, unhurried way. Farzan was willing to help us with technical problems and laugh with us as we enjoyed the many games and activities he suggested. It was also a case of mutual love between our little dog and Farzan. We feel so fortunate to have had the experience of getting to know this kind and gentle young man.

Linda, Care Partner and Doug, Person Living with Dementia



AlzheimerSociety

Having the chance to bring warmth and joy into someone's life and connect with them is very fulfilling. By volunteering with the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners, you can make a genuine difference in the lives of others and also enrich your own life with new perspectives and experiences. I encourage those who are interested to get involved. You'll be glad you did!

Farzan, In-home Recreation Volunteer

The Dementia Resource Consultant (DRC) role has had a very positive impact on our team in the emergency department (ED) at

University Hospital. Having DRCs available to support ED staff when caring for patients with cognitive impairment and those experiencing expressive behaviours has been essential. The DRCs are proactive in identifying appropriate patients early in their ED visits to support their time in the hospital and upon discharge. This kind of support ensures that patients receive the compassionate and specialized care they need while providing our ED staff with resources to manage challenging situations.

> Paulina, Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) RN, LHSC - University Hospital

Having a monthly support group to attend with my mom has helped us transition together and the connections we've made through it are priceless. Sometimes, it felt as if there was nothing that anyone could do to help our situation, but within the group setting, we soon realized that most of the things we have experienced on Dad's journey, others have also experienced and had ideas and solutions that we could try. Through what I've learned at the Society, I have become better equipped to understand and hopefully help my mom feel that she is not going through this alone and that her feelings and well-being matter too.

## Wendy, Care Partner

My husband and I have never been apart. Losing him gradually like this has been very hard. Having Wendy attend the support group with me lets me absorb what I can, and she can then fill in anything I may have missed. The group is a safe place to talk openly and honestly with others who truly understand. I've learned that I'm not alone in any of my feelings of loneliness and guilt.