



# WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Nationally Acclaimed Guide Available To Care Givers**

More than 120,000 Michigan workers are paid to assist in caring for someone with dementia. Some workers are paid to provide assistance to one person with dementia. Others provide assistance or care to a number of individuals that includes some who have dementia. Workers who are paid to help provide care for someone with dementia often choose this type of work because they are caring individuals. They have a great deal of compassion and love to give.

“I chose to become a home health aide because I love it,” says Gail Perez, a home health aide. “I know some people don’t want to care for someone with cognitive impairment, but I find it especially fulfilling. I love my work.”

Michelle Munson McCorry, RN, is a home health care agency owner in Lansing. She knows that compassion and caring are at the heart of good care for someone with dementia. But she also knows that love is not enough. Care providers also need a good basic understanding of dementia and dementia care.

“Most people with dementia have many special needs,” says McCorry. “Yet they are unable to express their needs, wishes, thoughts and feelings. Understanding their special needs and having the skills to work with them leads to many more happy moments for both workers and their clients.”

Prompted by McCorry’s interest in dementia education, the Michigan Dementia Coalition brought together a group of Michigan dementia experts to develop a guide for direct care workers. The guide spells out what special skills are needed to provide good care to someone with dementia. The Michigan Dementia Coalition released the guide, titled *Knowledge and Skills Needed for Dementia Care: A Guide for Direct Care Workers*.

The guide has been recognized and acclaimed nationally. It is available at no charge from the Michigan Dementia Coalition website at [www.dementiacoalition.org](http://www.dementiacoalition.org). The Michigan Dementia Coalition website also provides a directory of dementia training and education programs available in Michigan.

The Michigan Dementia Coalition is the coordinator of a statewide public awareness campaign focusing on dementia and memory loss. WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com is an education campaign showcasing the facts of memory loss and dementia and resources available in Michigan for patients and caregivers.

For more information online connect to [www.WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com](http://www.WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com) or call 1-800-272-3900 for services in Michigan. For more information on the Michigan Dementia Coalition contact Micki Horst, Michigan Public Health Institute, at (517) 324-7318.