

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 29, 2023**

## **FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF AGING SENIORS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM**

The Ivey and Caregiving Corner, two Charlotte-based organizations focusing on supporting family caregivers and aging adults in the community, are pleased to announce a new collaboration which launched in March of 2023.

The Ivey, a Charlotte-based nonprofit, was founded in 2008 by Lynn Ivey as a tribute to both of her parents who lived with dementia at the end of their lives. Since its inception, The Ivey has focused on the family caregiver. Informed by her own experiences with her parents, Lynn intentionally developed The Ivey's 11,000sf building in the heart of Southpark to help family caregivers feel good about the place their loved ones could spend afternoons while they take a break from the overwhelming challenges of caregiving.

Caregiving Corner was founded in 2005 by Jennifer Szakaly to provide families with a one-stop shop for all of their caregiving and aging questions. Navigating the complexities of the long-term care system, choosing quality providers, and answering the question 'what do we do now' are some of the ways care managers can help their clients.

Their new collaboration, called the 'While You Wait' Program for Caregivers provides cognitive assessments & memory screenings, support & resources, and guidance from a certified care manager onsite at The Ivey during that critical time when caregivers are often left waiting for an appointment with a provider and unsure about what to do next.

According to Jennifer Szakaly, "As the aging population grows, the wait for appointments with neurologists and other providers who work primarily with this age group, has grown too. This can be very frustrating for caregivers who need advice, support, and resources right now."

"Lynn and I want to arm them with helpful data for their next appointment in the form of a cognitive assessment and then be able to connect them with a counselor and care manager who can provide the support and actionable advice they need immediately," says Szakaly.

According to Lynn Ivey, "As part of The Ivey's long-term Family Resources program, we are very excited that Caregiving Corner's expertise will now be offered onsite at The Ivey to provide our families and members, as well as others in the Charlotte community, with care management services that help navigate the complexities of caregiving. Additionally, Caregiving Corner will offer counseling services onsite at The Ivey and facilitate our four monthly support groups, which are open-to-the public and held in-person & virtually."

Led by Lynn's question of whether she could have prevented or delayed her parents' dementia and caregiving journeys from the beginning, The Ivey's mission now includes educating the public through a series of workshops on brain-healthy lifestyle changes that can be made earlier in life to avoid cognitive and memory changes that may lead to dementia. Professional subject matter experts lead each week's educational forums at The Ivey on specific topics that science is now discovering are keys to long-term quality of life and aging well. Free Information Sessions are offered throughout the year with the next ones being held on April 14 & 21. "What's good for the heart is also good for the brain and in the absence of a proven pharmacological treatment intervention for dementia, the sooner we start with lifestyle change, the more we will remember," Ivey said.

"This also holds true for caregivers who need education, support, and resources sooner than is possible while waiting for an appointment with medical providers. When we step in earlier, it provides caregivers with tools and a plan to move forward with confidence and ability to handle the dementia caregiving journey with hope and less stress, which is better for the brain. We become the family's and the medical provider's partners in care," Ivey added.

Szakaly adds, "care managers are experts in aging well and the mission of The Ivey is all about aging well with a focus on brain-healthy lifestyle habits, so both of our organizations support a positive perspective on aging, even when dealing with chronic diseases."

Because both founders of these two organizations arrived in this field as a result of personal family experiences, Ivey and Szakaly hope that their collaboration will enable them to serve more families and empower more older adults to be proactive in both their planning and living, later in life.

To learn more about The Ivey's programs in brain health and afternoon respite, visit [www.theivey.com](http://www.theivey.com) or call 704-909-2070.

To learn more about care management services available to caregivers in the Charlotte area, visit [www.caregivingcorner.com](http://www.caregivingcorner.com) or call 704-945-7170.