



# Douglas County Health and Social Services Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH DOUGLAS COUNTY HONORS FAMILY CAREGIVERS**

State and County Seniors and Disabilities Services Programs, along with numerous organizations and community groups around the country, are celebrating National Family Caregivers Month to recognize and support our nation's family caregivers.

According to the National Family Caregivers Association, in any given year over 50 million people provide some level of caregiving services. Those services are valued at more than \$306 billion dollars a year. Family caregivers provide more than 80% of all home care services. "We are pleased to have this opportunity to formally recognize and celebrate the valuable role family caregivers play in communities throughout Oregon," said Merry Bayly, District 6 Manager, Seniors and People with Disabilities.

Family Caregivers Month is observed each year as an opportunity to highlight the work of caregivers in providing support to families and communities. Caregiving can last from a few short months to several years. At times, caregiving is a lifetime commitment. Caregiving may include providing personal care, carrying out medical procedures, managing a household, and interacting with the formal health care and social service systems on another's behalf. "Family Caregivers Month allows us to remind caregivers about the resources available to protect their own health and the health of their loved ones," said Vic Nunenkamp, Director of Douglas County Seniors and Disabilities Services.

For information on the services available to family caregivers in Douglas County, including caregiver support groups, respite care, and helpful caregiver trainings, call the Family Caregiver Support Program at 541-440-3677.

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