2022-2023 Grant Finalist Summary
Alzheimer's Community Care | Fostering Independence and Self-Esteem for Patients with Dementia

The Organization
Since 1996, Alzheimer's Community Care has been dedicated to providing community-based, family-centered care for patients and their caregivers living with neurocognitive disorders through the belief that where there is help, there is hope.

The Program
Alzheimer's Community Care will utilize an application that helps those with early-stage Alzheimer's disease to organize their habits and routines into visual maps. As habit formation is instrumental for people who need cognitive aid to safely navigate their day, it has been found that assistive technology combined with behavioral learning produces effective results in maintaining cognition for everyday tasks. The structured activities provided in the proposed application take advantage of a part of the brain that is not damaged by Alzheimer's disease or related disorders, permitting the patient to retain the directions for performing these daily tasks. The program is a product of MapHabit, Inc. MapHabit's program was recognized by the National Institute on Aging with a first prize award in October 2019, for "Improving Care for People with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Using Technology." Through MapHabit's program for visual mapping, routines and habits become interactive step-by-step guides that can help an individual complete an activity on their own or with the help of their caregiver. They believe that providing this technology for patients living at home with their caregivers will facilitate and enhance patient independence, confidence, and self-esteem, thereby decreasing the caregiving burden on the family caregivers.

How will this program impact Palm Beach County?
The incidence of Alzheimer's disease and related neurocognitive disorders continues to rise in our community as Baby Boomers enter the high-risk age group (65+) of developing the disease. An estimated 580,000 people with Alzheimer's related disorders live in Florida. Palm Beach County has the highest rate of probable Alzheimer's in the state; nearly 15% of those 65 and older are afflicted in the county, equaling almost 57,000 residents. The target population served by this program will be those persons who are exhibiting symptoms of and/or are diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer's disease. The target number of persons to be served will be 50 patients and their caregivers. The persons to be served will be both new and existing clients with our Family Nurse Navigator program. Participants will be chosen through personal contact with families by the Family Nurse Navigator, and determination of eligibility will be made through a doctor's diagnosis or by the patient's Brief Interview of Mental Status score.

Measurable Outcomes
- Of those participating in the program, how many Alzheimer's patients were able to remain in the home as opposed to nursing home placement.
- The reduction or stabilization of stress for the caregiver is measured through the Zarit Burden interview score.

How will Impact Palm Beaches grant be used?
The grant will be used to pay for a portion of salary of the Family Nurse Navigator (45,000); equipment and technology (35,000); MapHabit application fee (10,000); and employee transportation (10,000).