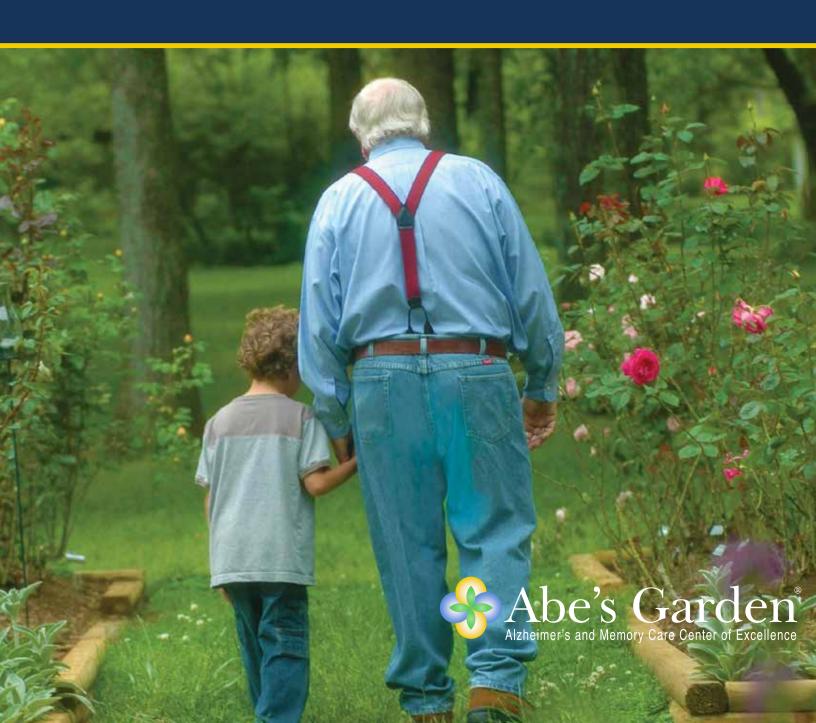
# Annual Report

A PATH TO A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ALZHEIMER'S CENTER OF EXCELLENCE





# 2015: When Abe's Garden Became a Reality A Letter From The Founder and Chairman of the Board

#### Dear friends,

After 11 years of researching, planning, collaborating and dreaming about a truly person-centered, evidence-based memory-care community, the dream became a reality in 2015. Abe's Garden opened in September, welcoming its first residents and embarking on a journey to provide a new standard of care for those with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

Today, 43 residents call Abe's Garden home and six individuals are participating in the day/evening care program. These residents and program participants are experiencing the benefits of living engaged, purposeful lives.

Here's a look back at this year's exciting accomplishments: In the first quarter of 2015, Abe's Garden opened its wait list. Key management positions were filled in the areas of professional education and training and music and art therapy. Care partners joined the team, and comprehensive training sessions began and continued throughout the year.

In the summer, Abe's Garden partnered with The Hearthstone Institute to implement the I'm Still Here™ approach. Hearthstone's founder Dr. John Zeisel was nominated to the Abe's Garden board of directors.

Anticipation grew in September as construction crews put the final touches on the building, courtyard gardens were planted, and a series of events provided a preview of the community's amenities and services. Staff began assessments of potential residents, and finally, on September 21, Abe's Garden opened its doors.

Abe's Garden couldn't have become a reality without the generous support of so many. In 2016, we will continue to work toward our goal to be the most innovative Alzheimer's care community in the nation, disseminating best practices to care communities, families and individuals.

With gratitude and great hope for the future, I sincerely remain,

Michael D. Shmerling
Founder and Chairman of the Board

### THE NATIONAL NEED

**5.3 million**Americans have
Alzheimer's

Every
66 seconds
someone in the
U.S. develops
Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's is the **6th leading cause** of death in the U.S.

Nearly 2/3
of those affected
are women

1/3 of seniors
die with
Alzheimer's
or other dementia

By 2050, the cost of caring for those affected could rise to **\$1 trillion** 

# THE LOCAL NEED

In Tennessee, 11% of the population has Alzheimer's

In 2015, 110,000 people had the disease – that number is expected to increase to 140,000 by 2025

#### **Testimonials**



"I really didn't know what to expect – and I am very impressed! The staff is incredible and they are so helpful. There is always someone nearby to guide Roy into something new and exciting or just talk to him. It's a peaceful and inviting atmosphere – I was pleasantly surprised!"

- Julie Ehrlich, BSG, CMC



"Abe's Garden is a treasure and all involved should be proud." - Chuck Edwards, Memory Center Charlotte



"The mission and model upon which Abe's Garden has been designed is one of incredible perception, time, effort and dedication."

 Luci and Kenneth Kraft, The Sol Stern and Rose Stern Charitable Trust

# What We've *Accomplished*

Our wait list opened in January 2015. Key positions were filled in staff training and education, music therapy and art therapy. Care partners joined the team, and training sessions continued throughout the year.

In the summer, we partnered with The Hearthstone Institute, nominating Hearthstone's founder Dr. John Zeisel to the Abe's Garden Board of Directors, and began care partner training in the I'm Still Here<sup>TM</sup> approach.

In August, we put the final touches on the building, community gardens were planted, and a series of events gave donors and other supporters a preview of the community's amenities and services.

Staff began assessments of potential residents, and finally, on September 21, Abe's Garden opened its doors.

#### **Testimonials**



"Abe's Garden is not designed to shelter people from life, it is designed to engage them in life."

– Kim Hawkins



attended five free dementia care educational sessions in Nashville. These sessions were conducted by Abe's Garden leadership members and faculty from Vanderbilt Center for Quality Aging (VCQA). Topics included evidence-based person-centered care, and selecting a quality dementia care community.

More *Accomplishments* 

In August, approximately 350 people attended free "Life at Abe's Garden" opening events which featured engagement demonstrations and tours of the campus.



# Overview & Financials

### Mission Statement

Abe's Garden seeks to establish a model of residential and day/evening care programs for those with Alzheimer's disease. The goal is to transform care for those with Alzheimer's and related dementias throughout the United States by providing an unprecedented level of care for individuals diagnosed with these disorders. Equally important it is a site of research and teaching, setting a new standard for other programs and residential communities devoted to caring for our nation's rapdily expanding senior population.

### Leadership

CEO/Executive Director: Andrew Sandler, Ph.D.

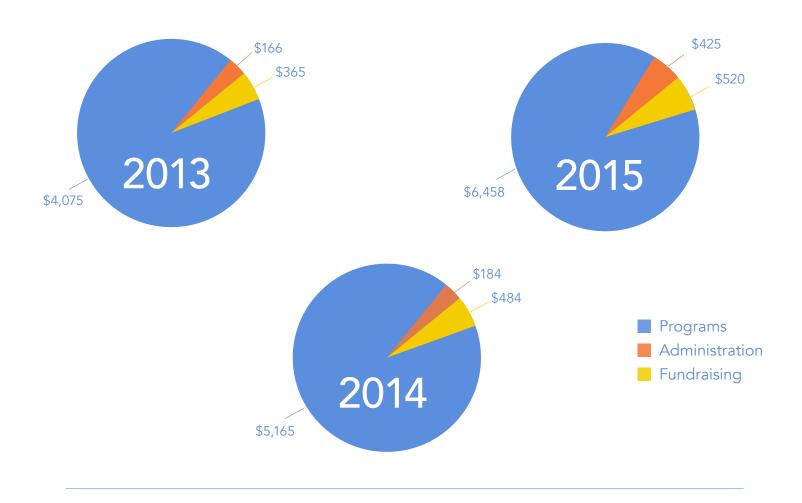
Board Chair: Michael D. Shmerling

### History & Background

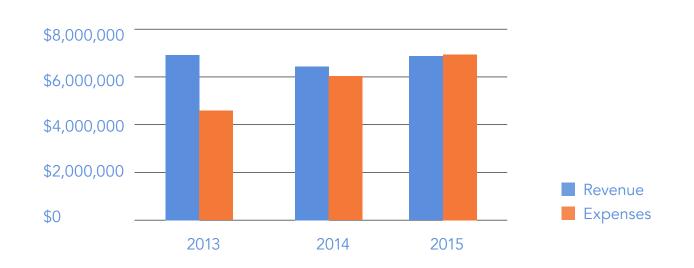
Year of Incorporation: 2007

Organization's type of tax exempt status: 501(c)(3)

### **EXPENSE BREAKDOWN** (in thousands)



### REVENUE/EXPENSES



## *Flourishing* in The Garden

"My father has 'flourished' since moving into Abe's Garden.

Daddy asked me to dance, and we danced for at least fifteen minutes. He sang along to each song as we danced. He was enjoying the moment, and the smile on his face was priceless."

Resident's daughter







In October, 513 community professional and volunteer care partners attended dementia care training sessions focused on communication, engagement and hygiene for those with dementia. The training was presented in Nashville, Chattanooga and Memphis. A majority of the cost of these trainings was underwritten by the Care Foundation of America, Alexian Village and the Plough Foundation, so that attendance was free to participants.

In 2015, the organization was featured in more than 15 print and media outlets reaching an estimated 400,000 people. Articles focused on best practices in person-centered care, architecture and interior design.

# Our Donors

	2014	2015
Total donors:	286	488
Total gifts:	377	660
New donors:	122	288





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