

## **SUMMARY OF PRIORITY ISSUES 2003-2004**

**GOAL 1:** Ensure that nearly 500,000 Pennsylvanians, including underserved rural & minority populations, afflicted by Alzheimer's disease & related dementias can live outside of an institutional environment for as long as possible by:

**Objective 1:** Seeking full funding of the state match portion of the Federal AoA grant already awarded to the Pa. Dept. of Aging for the Alzheimer's Association Memory Loss Screening Program in FY04 & 05.

**Objective 2:** Appropriately increasing the maximum family allowance (\$200/month) authorized by the Pa. Family Caregiver Support Act of 1992, which has remained unchanged since inception.

**Objective 3:** Fully restoring and /or increasing the annual \$200,000 Dept. Of Aging allocation to the Association's two state chapters, a critical resource in its ongoing mission of delivering quality education, awareness and outreach services to over 1,000,000 Pennsylvanians.

**Objective 4:** Expansion of the *Safe Return* program to all appropriate State Police personnel through dedicated funding for additional training provided by the Alzheimer's Association.

**GOAL 2:** Ensure access to necessary health care services and facilities for all Pennsylvanians affected by Alzheimer's disease & related dementias by:

**Objective 1:** Participating in the development of assisted living legislation that is dementia-specific in the areas of staff training and certification.

**Objective 2:** Expanding resources for dementia patients under 60 years of age through increased community outreach & assessment while advocating with DPW and the Dept. of Aging to create special pilot programs to aid in the effort.

**Objective 3:** Providing for appropriate access to services and facilities for dementia patients with "difficult" behavior.

**Objective 4:** Ensuring that spouses of persons entering long-term care facilities are not impoverished by the costs of care through continuance of the "resource first" methodology used by DPW.