



## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Dannielle Carr  
E-mail: [dcarr@wiseandhealthyaging.org](mailto:dcarr@wiseandhealthyaging.org)  
Telephone: 310.394.9871, ext 448

### **Health Care Innovation Award To UCLA Gives Boost To WISE & Healthy Aging Programs For Alzheimer's and Dementia Patients, Caregivers**

*Agency is one of five community-based partners of newly launched UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program, recipient of the \$3.2 million Health and Human Services Award*

**Santa Monica (May 28, 2012)** – May 8, 2012 was a good day for local patients and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia--that morning, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program had been awarded more than \$3.2 million over a 3-year period as part of the federal agency's Health Care Innovation awards program.

The announcement came less than two months after another good day for those local patients and families—March 13, 2012, when UCLA announced the launch of its far-reaching new Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program to provide them with comprehensive, well-coordinated medical care as well as access to excellent community resources and support.

The Health and Human Services Innovation award to the new UCLA Alzheimer's/dementia program was made possible through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, It is one of 26 such awards nationwide for innovative projects aimed at saving money, delivering high-quality medical care and enhancing the health care workforce. The projects are expected to "make our health care system stronger," Sebelius said.

In order to deliver its high-quality care, the UCLA program has chosen five community-based organizations (CBOs) as partners: the Alzheimer's Association's California Southland Chapter, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Leeza's Place, OPICA Adult Day Care & Caregiver Support Center, and WISE & Healthy Aging.

Partnering with these community organizations, and utilizing the Innovation award monies, UCLA will be able to expand the new program to provide efficient patient- and family-centered care for approximately 1,000 Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia living in Los Angeles County.

WISE & Healthy Aging and the other CBOs have three roles in the UCLA program: serve on the program's Steering Committee to oversee implementation; provide direct services to patients and families; and support workforce development.

WISE & Healthy Aging is represented on the Steering Committee by President and CEO Grace Cheng Braun, working on both short-term and long-term program goals. And as a care provider, WISE & Healthy Aging's In-Home Services/Care Management and Adult Day Service Center are integral community resources. There are support groups and counseling to caregivers (often concerned family members) and adult day care for clients, about 80 percent of whom have Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, ranging from mild to severe memory loss.

"Families confronted with an Alzheimer's diagnosis often feel isolated and don't know where to begin in accessing resources and support. It can be very frustrating to navigate through the healthcare system, and it's not always easy to find the support services for the person with memory loss and for the family members who feel responsible for their loved one. We are proud to be able to provide those professionally managed services, including adult day care, here on the Westside. Our partnership with UCLA makes these valuable services even more easily accessible," said Cheng Braun.

To learn more about WISE & Healthy Aging's services for Alzheimer's and dementia care clients, including the Adult Day Service Center and caregiver support groups, please call (310) 394-9871, or visit [www.wiseandhealthyaging.org](http://www.wiseandhealthyaging.org).

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**WISE & Healthy Aging** is the result of the 2007 merger of WISE Senior Services and Center for Healthy Aging. With a combined 70 years' experience serving older adults, the nonprofit organization brings together a synergy of services, information, programs and support for seniors, those who care for them and the professionals who work with them.