

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Individuals with Dementia of Alzheimer's Type**

#### **Diagnostic Categories and Characteristics**

##### Phase One – Forgetfulness

- Confusion
- Forgetfulness
- Decrease in performance ability
- Difficulty finding words
- Anxiety about forgetfulness

##### Phase Two – Confusional Stage

- Increased confusion and disorientation
- Decreased knowledge of current events
- Decreased concentration
- Inability to perform complex tasks
- Decrease ability to travel/getting lost
- Denial used as a defense mechanism
- Anger, irritation, and anxiety
- Wandering and restlessness
- Easily distracted
- Combative/strikes out
- Paranoia/obsessive concerns
- Long-term memory and vocabulary intact

##### Phase Three – Dementia

- All previous symptoms markedly worse
- Loss of motor skill
- Inability to perform purposeful movement
- Loss of ability to understand sensory input
- Loss of ability to speak
- Loss of long-term memory
- Doesn't recognize family members
- Loss of motor function
- Seizures/death

#### **Considerations and Cautions**

- Don't be too physically intrusive/keep your distance
- Watch for hitting or throwing behavior
- Give reassurances as to where they are/what's happening
- Provide assistance and support for active participation
- Emphasize live music in somewhat close proximity
- Speak loudly and clearly