



Family Caregiving Counts! **National Family Caregivers Week**

NOVEMBER 24-30, 1996

82-year old Dorothy Becker is the sole caregiver to her husband, Harold; 85, his speech indiscernible and body partially paralyzed from the fatal Lou Gehrig's Disease. Gradually, Dorothy is going blind, so Harold & Dorothy are becoming mutual caregivers.

37-year old Craig Terpstra has Alexander's disease; a rare disease which has paralyzed the muscles & nerves on his left side. Craig is one of the mere 15 people in the world with this unpredictable disease. Craig's wife, Diane, 37, struggles daily to care for her once vital husband.

Family Caregiving Counts!

National Family Caregivers Week, supported by several non-profit agencies in the Grand Rapids area, and formally proclaimed by Mayor John Logie, will be celebrated in Grand Rapids with a candlelight vigil in the courtyard of the VanAndel Museum on Monday, November 25 at 7:00 PM. Speakers and music will be featured. All are invited to attend.

This special week to honor family caregivers is sponsored by the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA), an organization created to empower, educate and support the 18-25 million Americans who care for, and about, loved ones who are chronically ill or disabled.

Rosalynn Carter, in her recent book on family caregiving, *Helping Yourself Help Others*, states there are only four kinds of people in this world . . .

- those who have been caregivers
- those who currently are caregivers
- those who will be caregivers
- those who will need caregivers

Please join us - appropriately the week of Thanksgiving - in a celebration of caregivers.

The following organizations are working together to bring you a very important message:
Family Caregiving Counts!

A.I.D.S. Resource Center
ALS Association - West MI Chapter
Alzheimer's Association
Area Agency on Aging of
Western Michigan, Inc.
Arthritis Foundation West MI
Region
Family Life Center
Kent District Library
Holland Home
Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Family Caregivers
Association
Parkinson's Educational
Program (WMI)
Respite Centers
of Western Michigan
Visiting Nurse Association
WZZM Channel 13
Well Spouse Foundation

c/o National Multiple Sclerosis Society

2020 Raybrook SE, Suite 204, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-7717, (616)942-5505