



# Bears for Elder Welfare

November 2014

Issue III, Volume II

CLUB MISSION: BEARS FOR ELDER WELFARE STRIVES TO PROMOTE CAMPUS AWARENESS OF ISSUES IN AGING, TO CULTIVATE APPRECIATION IN ELDER, AND TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES PROMOTING ELDER WELFARE.

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

During this past month, members went to Kyakameena as well as Amistad House to volunteer. At Kyakameena, members read stories to the elders, and it proved to be a very noteworthy event. On Halloween, we went to Amistad House for an arts and crafts event with the elders in the morning. Members assisted elders in their art projects and it proved to be an excellent bonding experience for both members and elders.



## Monthly Arts and Crafts

A new event we are currently planning is a monthly arts and crafts event in which we give our art projects to the elder homes to brighten up their walls. In October, we had our very first arts and crafts event in which we designed fall-themed cards to give to Amistad elder home. The event had a great turn out, so thank you to every one who came out! During this event, we also provided mugs to people still interested in creating a personalize mug for \$5. The proceeds went to the Alzheimer's Research foundation.



## Upcoming Events

**3RD GENERAL MEETING:** Nov. 12, 7-8pm @ 182 Dwinelle

**SOCIAL:** Join us in rock climbing on Nov. 15!

**KYAKAMEENA:** Decorate pumpkins with residents and elders!  
Nov. 1,

**AMISTAD HOUSE:**  
November 21

**ELDERWISE:** Help elders overcome isolation and loneliness through a one-on-one match!

**SENIORS CENTER WITHOUT WALLS:** A free telephone program connecting elders through activities, friendship, and community

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CONTACT US AT BEARS4ELDERWELFARE@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!

# BREAKTHROUGH IN ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

By **Lorena Ferguson**

Education Intern

Earlier this month, researchers at the Massachusetts

General Hospital created

a new method of looking at what Alzheimer's does to the brain.

Alzheimer's, a progressive mental deterioration of the brain that occurs during middle or old age, is the most common cause of premature senility. Over time, Alzheimer's symptoms become worse in which patients begin to lose their memory as well as their ability to keep a conversation flowing. Survival of Alzheimer's can range from four to 20 years.

Dr. Tanzi and his team used human stem cells to create neurons in a petri dish. They then gave the neurons some of the genes related to

Alzheimer's disease, and the samples soon showed some of the defining features of the disease: tangles of neurons and clumps of protein called beta amyloid plaques.

For a long time, one of the greatest impediments to Alzheimer's research was simply developing a way to study the disease. Scientists were limited to artificially inducing an imperfect variation in mice. However, this new model will change all that by allowing for a better way of testing new drugs and techniques.

The artificial neurons will be both cheaper and more accurate. This method has also helped prove the

hypothesis proposed by Dr. George C. Glenner, who has studied this disease for over 30 years, that Alzheimer's is caused by the overproduction of the protein beta amyloid. This has

resounding implications for the future of Alzheimer's research.

The picture of the map shows the schedule growth of Alzheimer's by 2025. Each change of color indicates a 25% increment, with the lightest color indicating less than 25% growth and the darkest color indicating more than 100% growth. However, despite the rate at which Alzheimer's is growing, there are currently no cures available, only treatments for the individual symptoms. However, with Dr. Tanzi's novel tactic in testing drugs and techniques for curing Alzheimer's, finding better treatments for Alzheimer's will become less challenging.

