

**AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING**
Health Care Observances

January 2012

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25th NATIONAL INTRAVENOUS NURSE DAY

To honor the nation's intravenous (IV) nurse professionals. Infusion Nurses Society, Attn: Jason Beal, 220 Norwood Park South, Norwood, MA 02062. (781) 440-9408, ext. 316 or www.ins1.org.

22nd- 28th NATIONAL ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS WEEK

To recognize the contribution of activity professionals to the well-being of long term care, adult day care, senior center and retirement living clients. National Association of Activity Professionals, P.O. Box 5530 Sevierville, TN 37864. (865) 429-0717 or www.thenaap.com.

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS MONTH

Prevent Blindness America® will provide information about this "sneak thief of sight." Organizations are encouraged to educate the community through screenings, forums and programs. Prevent Blindness America®, Attn: Betsy Van Die, 500 E. Remington Rd., Chaumburg, IL 60173. (847) 843-2020 or www.preventblindness.org.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Pay tribute to regular blood donors while encouraging others to donate. American Association of Blood Banks, Attn: Jennifer Gartinkel, 8101 Glenbrook Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814. (301) 215-6526 or www.aabb.org.

February 2012

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3rd NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

On Friday, February 3, 2012, National Wear Red Day®, Americans will wear red to show their support for women's heart health. For more information on National Wear Red Day and women's heart health, visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/educational/hearttruth/materials/wear-red-toolkit.htm>.

6th-10th PRIDE IN FOOD SERVICE WEEK

An annual event honoring dietary managers and their employees to celebrate the important role they play in institutional food service. Dietary Managers Association: www.dmaonline.org.

12th-18th NATIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR PROFESSIONALS WEEK

This week celebrates the contribution cardiovascular professionals make to health care. For more information or to receive buttons, posters and memorabilia, visit www.acp-online.org.

14th-21st ALZHEIMERS AND DEMENTIA STAFF EDUCATION WEEK

This week brings awareness to the importance of both staff educators and their direct care staff being trained and certified in dementia care. For more information and free Tool Kit (download), visit <http://www.nccdp.org/staff-education-week.htm>.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Learn about heart disease prevention by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [page](#).

March 2012

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27th AMERICAN DIABETES ALERT DAY
One-day public awareness campaign of the signs, dangers, and treatment of diabetes. For more information, visit <http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/programs/alert-day/>.

30th NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY
Recognized annually on March 30 to celebrate the contribution of physicians who serve our country by caring for its' citizens. For more information, visit <http://www.doctorsday.org/>.

5th-11th NATIONAL SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK
National Sleep Awareness week is an annual public education and awareness campaign to promote the importance of sleep. For more information, visit the National Sleep Foundation at <http://www.sleepfoundation.org/event/national-sleep-awareness-week>.

4th-12th PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK
A national education and awareness-building campaign for educating patients on how to become involved in their own health care. For more information, visit <http://www.npsf.org/pr/pressrel/2011-09-14.php>.

11th – 17th NATIONAL PULMINARY REHABILITATION WEEK
Promotes awareness of the role of pulmonary rehabilitation in the treatment of chronic obstructive airway disease. For more information, visit the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation at <http://www.aacvpr.org/EventsEducation/tabid/61/Default.aspx>.

19th-23rd LONG TERM CARE ADMINISTRATORS WEEK
Sponsored by the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) to recognize the contributions of administrators for long-term care facilities. For more information, visit www.achca.org.

**AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
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Health Care Observances

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP™

March 1st - May 31st

Everyone deserves to live in a community environment that is healthy, safe, clean and beautiful. For information visit the Keep American Beautiful website at www.kab.org.

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

March is set aside to educate and inform the public about colorectal cancer. For more information on colon and rectum cancers, visit the American Cancer Society at <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/colonandrectumcancer/index>.

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

National Association of Social Workers, Inc., 750 First St., NE, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20002-4241. (800) 638-8799 or www.socialworkers.org.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

“Women’s Education – Women’s Empowerment” is the 2012 Theme for National Women’s History Month. Although women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gender gap is a very recent phenomenon. The fight to learn was a valiant struggle waged by many tenacious women—across years and across cultures—in our country. For more information, visit <http://nwhp.org/whm/2012theme.php>.

April 2012

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7th WORLD HEALTH DAY
World Health Day brings together all health professions and specialties to promote better health. For more information, visit the World Health Organization www.who.int/world-health-day.

16th 16th NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY
Healthcare providers, professionals, chaplains, attorneys and others will participate in a massive effort to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision-making. Resources available at www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org. AHCA is a partner in this national effort.

22nd EARTH DAY
Founded by the organizers of the first Earth Day in 1970, Earth Day Network (EDN) promotes environmental citizenship and year round progressive action worldwide. For more information, visit the Earth Day Network at www.earthday.net.

26th TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK™ DAY
The theme for 2012 is "Build Opportunity: 20 Years of Education, Empowerment, Experience." For more information, visit the organization at www.DaughtersandSonstoWork.org.

9th-13th NATIONAL PATIENT ADVOCACY WEEK
Honor the healthcare professionals who work to ensure that residents receive high-quality healthcare. For more information, visit the Society for Healthcare Consumer Advocacy, American Hospital Association, at <http://www.shca-aha.org/shca-aha/events/paweek.html>.

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15th-21st NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Points of Light Institute has equipped nonprofit organizations to celebrate National Volunteer Week, providing visibility, thematic focus and resources to enable them to commemorate this signature week of volunteer recognition.

<http://www.handsonnetwork.org/nationalprograms/signatureevents/nvw>.

16th - 22th NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

National Minority Cancer Awareness Week promotes increased awareness of prevention and treatment among those segments of the populations that are at greater risk of developing cancer. <http://www.socialworkers.org/diversity/ethnic/041206nmcaaw.asp>.

22nd- 28th ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY AND WEEK

The theme for the 2012 Administrative Professionals Day[®] is: "Admins, the pulse of the office." APW is always the last full week in April. In 2012, Administrative Professionals Week is April 22-28, and Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 25. For more information, visit <http://www.iaap-hq.org/events/apw>.

NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

To recognize the services and accomplishments of occupational therapy practitioners and promote awareness of the benefits of occupational therapy. For more information, visit the American Occupational Therapy Association at

<http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/Awareness/OT-Month/Awareness/Celebrate-OT.aspx>.

NATIONAL PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

Celebrate Parkinson's Awareness Month with the National Parkinson Foundation. For more information, visit www.parkinson.org.

May 2012

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1st MARCH OF DIMES WALK AMERICA

The nation's biggest and oldest charity walking event involves more than a million volunteers at 1,450 sites across the country. To get more information and find a walk in your community, visit www.modimes.org.

12th FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S BIRTHDAY (1820-1910)

A British nurse whose work significantly contributed to the development of modern professional nursing.

14th ARTHRITIS WALK

To find the date of the walk in your area contact the Arthritis Foundation or visit <http://www.arthritis.org/arthritism-walk.php>.

18th NATIONAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY

This day highlights the importance of a healthy workplace and fitness programs. Contact National Association for Health and Fitness at www.physicalfitness.org.

25th NATIONAL SENIOR HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY

Older adults will participate in health promotion events at more than 1,500 local organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.fitnessday.com/senior/index.htm>.

6th – 12th NATIONAL NURSES DAY AND WEEK

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. For more information, visit the American Nurses Association at <http://www.nursingworld.org/HomepageCategory/UpcomingEvents/NNW.html>.

13th - 19th NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

NNHW spotlights nursing home residents and staff and encourages all to celebrate those that make a positive difference in their lives every day. A supportive and caring environment, such as a nursing home, provides enrichment for residents and families to continue growing, learning and teaching through various ways. "Celebrating the Journey" with us by honoring all those who contribute to our nation's nursing homes – residents, family members, employees and volunteers. For more information, visit the American Health Care Association at http://www.ahcancal.org/events/national_nursing_home_week/Pages/default.aspx.

8th - 14th NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

Focuses public attention on the numerous contributions hospitals make to their communities. For more information, visit the American Hospital Association at <http://www.nationalhospitalweek.com/hospitalweek/>

14th-18th NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

National Women's Health Week is a weeklong health observance coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health. It brings together communities, businesses, government, health organizations, and other groups in an effort to promote women's health. <http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw/>.

BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

This month recognizes the audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and other professionals who work with people who have communication challenges. For more information, visit American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) <http://www.asha.org/bhsm/>.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND FITNESS MONTH

This day highlights the importance of a healthy workplace and fitness programs. Contact National Association for Health and Fitness at <http://www.physicalfitness.org/nehf.php>.

HEALTHY VISION MONTH

The National Eye Institute, one of the Federal government's National Institutes of Health, sponsors Healthy Vision Month. For information, please visit <http://www.nei.nih.gov/hvm/>.

NATIONAL AMERICAN STROKE MONTH

This observance is an opportunity to demonstrate commitment to the fight against stroke. For more information, visit the National Stroke Association www.stroke.org.

NATIONAL ARTHRITIS MONTH

The Arthritis Foundation is leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis, and increase support for the nearly 43 million Americans with arthritis. Arthritis Foundation sponsors this month. Visit the organization at www.arthritis.org.

NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS PREVENTION MONTH

This event kicks off year-round osteoporosis awareness and education programs. Visit the National Osteoporosis Foundation at www.nof.org.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS MONTH

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month serves as a great opportunity to encourage physical activity and healthy eating habits, and to highlight the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition's (PCFSN) mission to engage, educate, and empower all Americans across the lifespan to adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity and proper nutrition. Visit <http://www.fitness.gov/about-us/what-we-do/national-monthly-events/npfsm/>.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Older Americans Month is observed throughout the United States by aging advocacy organizations, state and area agencies on aging, and providers. Visit the Administration on Aging, U.S. Health & Human Services at <http://olderamericansmonth.org/>.

June 2012

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3rd CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

National Cancer Survivors Day® is an annual, treasured worldwide Celebration of Life that is held in hundreds of communities throughout the United States, Canada, and other participating countries. Participants unite in a symbolic event to show the world that life after a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful and productive. For more information and resources, visit <http://www.ncsd.org/>.

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15th PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS DAY

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer found in American men. For more information about Prostate Cancer, visit

<http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/ProstateCancer/index?ssSourceSiteId=null>.

11th - 17th NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Held each year during the week preceding Father's Day, this week is designed to promote the benefits of preventative healthcare among men. For more information, visit

<http://www.menshealthmonth.org/week/index.html>.

15th - 22nd NURSING ASSISTANTS' DAY AND WEEK

Observed annually the first Thursday in June and the seven days after to recognize nursing assistants who provide care to ill, elderly, and long term care patients. Visit the National Network of Career Nursing Assistants, Career Nurse Assistants Programs Inc. www.cna-network.org.

22nd - 28th HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK

The week promotes an awareness and sensitivity to the needs of Americans who are deaf-blind, or vision and hearing impaired. For more information on Helen Keller Services for the Blind, visit www.helenkeller.org.

July 2012

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8th DENTAL AWARENESS DAY

The Academy of General Dentistry put dental dilemmas to rest by hosting Smile Line, a national dental health hotline that consumers can call to talk one-on-one with a dentist. Anyone with questions or concerns about oral health can call the Smile Line, toll free, at 800-SMILE33 (800-764-5333) from 8:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. (ET) to receive dental advice.

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22nd NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY

Parents' Day is established for "recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children." It is celebrated the 4th Sunday of every July. National Parents' Day Council, www.parentsday.com.

9th – 13th NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WEEK

The purpose of National Therapeutic Recreation Week is to enhance awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and services. National Recreation and Park Association, 22377 Belmont Ridge Rd., Ashburn, VA 20148. (703) 858-2153 or www.nrpa.org.

August 2012

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7th NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This program is a coordinated effort by local crime prevention agencies and communities to promote crime prevention. Visit the National Association of Town Watch, Inc., www.natw.org.

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

To increase awareness about immunization as the medical community begins preparations for the flu season. For more information about this month-long observation, visit the National Partnership for Immunization, <http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/augtoolkit.aspx>.

September 2012

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9th GRANDPARENTS DAY
Celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

26th NATIONAL WOMEN’S HEALTH & FITNESS DAY
Women’s Health & Fitness Day is the nation’s largest annual health promotion event for women of all ages. <http://www.fitnessday.com/women/index.htm>.

9th - 15th NATIONAL HEALTHCARE HOUSEKEEPING WEEK
This event recognizes the valuable contributions of housekeeping staff. American Society for Healthcare Environmental Services, <http://www.ahe.org/>.

9th - 15th NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK®
Sponsored by the National Center for Assisted Living(NCAL) this week begins annually on Grandparents Day. National Assisted Living Week® commemorates the staff and customers of our nation’s assisted living residences. This year’s theme is “Art for the Ages.” For more information, visit the National Center for Assisted Living, www.nalw.org.

12th - 16th NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK
The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is honored to provide support, representation, and training to HIM professionals for these valuable contributions to the healthcare industry. For more information, visit <http://www.ahima.org/events/recogweeks.aspx>.

16th – 22nd NATIONAL REHABILITATION AWARENESS WEEK
The National Rehabilitation Awareness Foundation’s mission is to educate people about the benefits and impact of rehabilitation; develop programs which aim to increase opportunities for

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the nearly 50 million Americans with disabilities, and help those who are disabled live up to their fullest potential. www.nraf-rehabnet.org.

AMERICAN HEART WALK

State affiliates have the walk on different weekends throughout the month. To find a walk near you, visit <http://www.heartwalk.org>.

HEALTHY AGING® MONTH

Healthy Aging® is a national ongoing health effort designed to broaden awareness of the positive aspects of aging and to provide information and inspiration for adults, age 50+, to improve their physical, mental, social, and financial fitness. For more information, visit www.healthyaging.net.

NATIONAL CHOLESTEROL MONTH

September is National Cholesterol Education Month, a good time to get your blood cholesterol checked and take steps to lower it if it is high. National Cholesterol Education Month is also a good time to learn about lipid profiles and about food and lifestyle choices that help you reach personal cholesterol goals. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/CholesterolAwareness/>.

NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE MONTH

To raise awareness of osteopathic physicians (DO's) as a healthcare option when choosing a physician. For more information, visit the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) at www.aoa-net.org.

NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a condition that affects people around the world. Due to the serious health problems associated with SCD there is a need to know more about the disease. For more information, contact the Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/sicklecellawareness/>.

October 2012

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4th NATIONAL DEPRESSION SCREENING DAY (NDS)

The goal of this event is to educate people on the signs and symptoms of depression and provide free screening and information on the availability of treatment. NDS is the nation's oldest voluntary, community-based screening program that provides referral information for treatment. More than half a million people each year have been screened for depression since 1991. <http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/events/national-depression-screening-day.aspx>.

20th NATIONAL PHARMACY TECHNICIAN DAY

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, www.ashp.org.

27th MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Make A Difference Day is a national day of helping others—a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA WEEKEND magazine in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, the event takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. For more information, contact: Make A Difference Day at <http://makeadifferenceday.com/>.

1st - 7th NATIONAL HEALTHCARE FOOD SERVICE WEEK

This week is set aside annually to honor healthcare food and nutrition professionals in self-operated facilities-the teams who demonstrate every day why self-operation is the industry's best practice. Honor your colleagues and recognize the integral role they have played in helping employees and patients stay well-nourished and healthy. www.ashfsa.org.

9th - 12th CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK

It is a week to celebrate the great job that customer service reps (receptionists, patient account reps, etc) are doing. Celebrated annually the first week of October. For more information, visit www.csweek.com.

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7th - 13th NATIONAL MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

In 1990, the U.S. Congress established the first week of October as Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) in recognition of NAMI's efforts to raise mental illness awareness. Since 1990, mental health advocates across the country have joined together during the first full week of October in sponsoring many kinds of activities.

http://www.nami.org/template.cfm?section=mental_illness_awareness_week.

9th -15th CASE MANAGEMENT WEEK

This week recognizes the contributions and commitments case managers make and educating the public about the significant work they perform.

<http://www.cmsa.org/Individual/NewsEvents/NationalCaseManagementWeek/tabid/304/Default.aspx>.

21st – 27th NATIONAL INFECTION PREVENTION WEEK

Contact Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc., (202) 789-1890 or www.APIC.org.

21st - 27th NATIONAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES AND ENGINEERING WEEK

This week recognizes healthcare facilities engineers and facilities managers. American Society for Healthcare Engineering, www.ashe.org.

24th - 28th NATIONAL ADULT IMMUNIZATION WEEK

Talk with your patients and staff about vaccine-preventable diseases and ensure that they are protected against influenza and pneumonia. National Immunization Program Public Inquiries, Mailstop E-05, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333, or call CDC Information Contact Center 800-232-4636 or nipinfo@cdc.gov.

7th - 13th NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. For more information and for promotional materials, visit

<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=2017&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week>.

14th – 20th NATIONAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY WEEK

This event increases awareness and appreciation of healthcare quality. Celebrated annually the second full week of October National Association for Healthcare Quality,

<http://www.nahq.org/membership/content/celebratehealthweek.html>.

23rd - 29th NATIONAL RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK

This week is used to promote respiratory health. American Association for Respiratory Care,

<http://www.aarc.org/rcweek/>.

23rd - 29th PASTORAL CARE WEEK "HEALING PRESENCE"

Sponsored by the Coalition on Ministry in Specialized Settings, a coordinating agency of religious endorsing bodies and pastoral care organizations. Pastoral Care Week Committee, www.pastoralcareweek.org.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign by major breast cancer organizations to increase awareness of the disease. This includes educating the public about early detection, the cause, diagnosis, treatment, and support for survivors. <http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/Breast-Cancer-Awareness/>

NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH

The new theme, "It's simple. Healthy habits for a healthy smile," continues to stress easy ways that our patients can incorporate a simple oral health regimen into an active and busy life in order to maintain optimal oral health. American Dental Hygienists' Association, www.adha.org.

RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH

Residents' Rights month is celebrated to honor residents living in all long term care facilities. It is a time for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity and respect of each individual resident. <http://www.theconsumervoice.org/resident/nursinghome/residents-rights>

NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH

National Physical Therapy Month (NPTM) is celebrated each October: <http://www.apta.org/NPTM/>.

November 2012

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11th NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE CANDLE LIGHTING

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National Commemorative Candle Lighting is an annual event sponsored by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America to remember and honor Americans who have been or will be affected by Alzheimer's disease or related illnesses: <http://www.candlelighting.org/>.

13th NATIONAL MEMORY SCREENING DAY

An annual event sponsored by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Healthcare professionals at sites across the nation provide free, confidential memory screenings and educational material as a first step toward detection or this is not a diagnosis.

<http://www.nationalmemoryscreening.org/>.

25th GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT DAY

The American Cancer Society is marking the Great American Smokeout by encouraging smokers to use the date to make a plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day. By doing so, smokers will be taking an important step towards a healthier life – one that can lead to reducing cancer risk.

<http://www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayfromTobacco/GreatAmericanSmokeout/>.

7th - 13th NATIONAL HOME HEALTH AIDE WEEK

This week celebrates the dedicated staff who work in home health care settings. National Association for Home Care, www.nahc.org.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

National Caregivers Association, NFCA coordinates National Family Caregivers Month as a time to thank, support, educate and empower family caregivers.

http://www.nfcares.org/national_family_caregiver_month/.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE MONTH

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. Alzheimer's disease (AD), the most common cause of dementia, is a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. An estimated 2.4--5.2 million persons in the United States currently have AD. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6045a4.htm>.

NATIONAL HOSPICE MONTH

To promote awareness of hospice care, and to honor patients and family members, as well as the dedicated professionals and volunteers who serve in hospice settings. Hospice Association of America, <http://www.nhpco.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5754>.

NATIONAL HOME HEALTH CARE MONTH

To promote awareness of home health care workers, November is time when the home care community joins together to celebrate the practice of home care and all of the individuals who make it possible, especially our dedicated caregivers and the many patients whose courageous will and determined spirit of independence inspires us all.

<http://www.nationalhomecaremonth.com/>.

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December 2012

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1st INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. For more information, please visit <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1561>.

1st World AIDS Day

The first cases of what would later become known as AIDS were reported in the United States in June of 1981. Since then, 1.7 million people in the U.S. are estimated to have been infected with HIV, including over 615,000 who have already died and more than 1.1 million estimated to be living with the disease today. Every 9½ minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic spans the nation with HIV diagnoses having been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations. <http://www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/>

CHRISTMAS SEALS® CAMPAIGN

For more than 90 years, donations to the American Lung Association's Christmas Seals Campaign have helped fund programs of education, advocacy and research for lung disease and its causes. American Lung Association, <http://www.christmasseals.org/>.

JINGLE BELL RUN FOR ARTHRITIS® MONTH

Communities celebrate this event to help the Arthritis Foundation support research and improve the quality of life for people affected by arthritis. Contact your local chapter of the Arthritis Foundation <http://www.arthritis.org/jingle-bell-run.php>.