



Alzheimer's and Memory Loss

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia — a general term for the loss of memory and other intellectual abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life. While researchers and physicians have learned a great deal about Alzheimer's disease since it was first studied more than a century ago, it continues to be a progressive and fatal brain disorder with more than 500,000 Floridians living with the disease and no current cure.

Thanks to the foresight of the late Wil and Madonna Ptak, who contributed a \$2 million gift to establish the Madonna Ptak Center for Alzheimer's and Memory Loss, Morton Plant Mease offers the latest medication options and research trial opportunities. Coupled with patient and family support services, this center is dedicated to quality of life issues for families living with Alzheimer's disease and other memory loss conditions. Last year the Madonna Ptak Center for Alzheimer's and Memory Loss provided services for 350 new patients.

A few of the personalized support and evaluation programs offered at the Madonna Ptak Center for Alzheimer's and Memory Loss include:

- **Caregiver 101:** A class to educate and support the caregivers of those with Alzheimer's and severe memory loss
- **DriveAble:** A research-based driving assessment for determining the safety of an elderly driver, their loved ones and others on the road
- **Memory Fit:** An educational program for people with age-related memory concerns that offers tips and strategies for improving memory
- **Support Groups:** A caregiver support group and an early-stage Alzheimer's patient support group