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Spotlight Long Island

**Long Island Alzheimer's & Dementia Center:
More Than 30 Years of Help and Hope**



Tori Cohen, Executive Director, Long Island Alzheimer's & Dementia Center



Left to right: Thomas Killeen, Esq., Board Member, Tori Cohen, and Jennifer Cona, Esq., Chair of Board of Trustees

Long Island Alzheimer's & Dementia (LIAD) Center was started in 1988 by five Long Island women who each had a connection with dementia and wanted to create a place where families could turn for much-needed help and services.

The grassroots, not-for-profit organization's programs provide help and hope for families grappling with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

We recently discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the organization, its mission, and more with Tori Cohen, its executive director.

Q: What is the mission of the Long Island Alzheimer's & Dementia Center?

TC: To help improve the quality of life for individuals and their families living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

Q: How is your organization using technology now and how has that changed since the start of the pandemic?

TC: Technology has kept us connected to our LIAD Center community through Facetime and Zoom calls with our caregivers and participants who are living with dementia. The pandemic has changed our format in how we do our programming but it has also made it easier to connect with many more families whom we were not able to reach because of distance.

Q: How has COVID-19 impacted your organization? What challenges has it created for you and how have you overcome those challenges?

TC: The LIAD Center has been impacted economically. We were fortunate to get a Payroll Protection Program loan. We have a few different revenue streams and they were all affected, one of them being special events. Our golf outing, held on September 14, was held with safety restrictions but was sold out. Our casino event in November is being changed to another event – a comedy

event that will hopefully draw in more people and raise more money than we would have in a smaller in-person event.

Q: What are the biggest challenges facing your organization in addition to COVID-19 and how are you working to overcome them?

TC: We pride ourselves on our hands-on programs and services that make us unique – specifically, with our programs that serve all stages of the disease. So our recent pivot to online and virtual programming has been challenging – especially for a population that has cognitive impairment. We have done a lot of support over the phone but this population needs a lot of handholding. We are waiting on guidance from New York State in order to open our center for our in-person services. But we are working on how to monetize our virtual

programs to increase revenue and to ensure that we are a sustainable organization in the future in case of a new surge of COVID.

Q: Are there new initiatives, programs or expansion plans at your organization that you can tell us about?

TC: We're starting a counseling service run by our licensed clinical social workers for any caregivers and individuals in the Long Island community who are facing this disease and any other mental health challenges. While our facility is located in Nassau County, our doors are open to anyone seeking support and resources.

Q: Please tell us about your role at the organization and what your favorite part of what you do is.

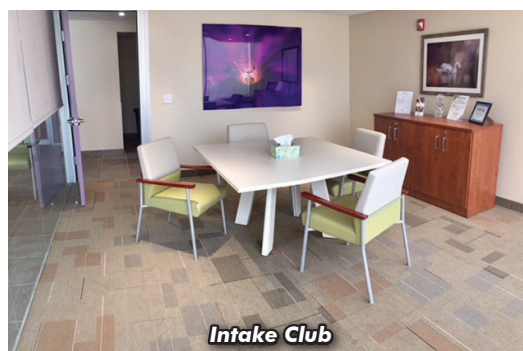
TC: I have been with the organization for over 17 years and have been the Executive Director since 2015. My favorite part is working alongside my wonderful team and creating new programs that will help all individuals and families facing this progressive illness.

Q: How did you get into this line of work?

TC: My grandmother had dementia and I watched her progress and I realized how important it is to have programs and services plus hope and support for these families. I am a licensed certified social worker and have been working with the geriatric population since 1997.



AL'z Club



Intake Club

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