

Dementia Friends Puerto Rico As Model Of Best Practices In Dementia Awareness And Education

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Dementia Friends Puerto Rico demonstrates that community-centered education, empathy-driven training, and multisectoral collaboration can transform dementia awareness and care across an entire region. By integrating scientific knowledge with grassroots mobilization, the initiative has increased dementia literacy, reduced stigma, and built sustainable support networks, establishing a scalable model of best practices for creating dementia-friendly societies.

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
Dementia Friends Puerto Rico is a community-education initiative that promotes empathy, inclusion, and dementia awareness across the island. Inspired and approved in 2016 by the Alzheimer’s Society Dementia Friends Program, it provides accessible training, multimedia resources, and practical strategies to support people living with dementia. Through partnerships with government, universities, nonprofits, and media, the program has expanded its reach, reduced stigma, and strengthened community networks. DFPR now serves as a leading model for dementia-friendly practices in Puerto Rico.	Dementia Friends Puerto Rico delivers dementia-friendly education through interactive talks, multimedia resources, and tailored training for healthcare professionals, caregivers, students, and community members. The program integrates empathy-based learning, practical communication strategies, and environmental adaptations to support daily living. Community networks are strengthened through volunteer engagement and collaboration with municipalities. Media outreach, digital platforms, and partnerships with government, universities, nonprofits, and Fundación Triple-S expand access, disseminate materials, and scale dementia-friendly practices across Puerto Rico.	Dementia Friends Puerto Rico has strengthened dementia literacy across the island, training thousands of citizens, caregivers, and professionals through accessible, empathy-based education. Media coverage and community partnerships have amplified public awareness, reducing stigma and normalizing conversations about cognitive health. Municipal certifications and volunteer networks have expanded dementia-friendly practices in public spaces. The use of audiovisual tools and real-life case studies increased engagement and inspired replication of the model, positioning DFPR as a leading community-based initiative in Puerto Rico.	Dementia Friends Puerto Rico shows that community education, empathy, and cross-sector collaboration can meaningfully transform dementia awareness and support. The initiative’s multisectoral partnerships, municipal certifications, and widespread media presence have strengthened public understanding and reduced stigma across the island. By integrating scientific knowledge with grassroots mobilization, DFPR has established a sustainable, scalable model for dementia-friendly practices. Its continued growth positions Puerto Rico as a leader in community-based dementia advocacy and inspires broader regional replication.	Alzheimer’s Disease International. (2023). Dementia-friendly initiatives: Global developments and best practices. Alzheimer’s Disease International. https://www.alzint.org Dementia Friends Puerto Rico. (n.d.). Dementia Friends Puerto Rico: Community awareness and education initiative. Fundación Triple-S. https://www.fundaciontriples.org World Health Organization. (2017). Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025. World Health Organization. https://www.who.int
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