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**Monroe County History Center Holds Care Partner
Training Workshop for New Dementia Friendly Programming**

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BLOOMINGTON, IN – The Monroe County History Center, in collaboration with Alzheimer’s Resource Service of IU Health, is introducing the first of its Living with History dementia friendly programs. Friends and family care partners of people living with dementia are invited to a free resource training workshop on May 30 from 10 am to 1 pm to learn to use museum resources to encourage memory sharing and help people to live well with dementia. The workshop will focus on how to use objects, photographs, ephemera, and their associated stories housed at the Monroe County History Center to share memories and spark conversations.

“We’re so excited to begin this programming. The History Center’s mission includes preserving community stories and memories so finding ways for families to explore and share memories and stories with their loved ones means a great deal to us,” said Susan Dyar, Director of the Monroe County History Center. Care partners will learn what types of memory activities and resources are available at the History Center and how to use them to spark conversations and reminiscences with people living with dementia. Examples include using memory boxes and participating in museum programs.

“The Alzheimer’s Resource Service is excited to join the Monroe County History Center for the Living with History project,” said Dayna Thompson, Alzheimer’s Educator with the Alzheimer’s Resource Services of IU Health. “Each of the programs is designed to create opportunities for meaningful connection – to others, to a sense of self, and to community.” This collaboration between the History Center and the Alzheimer’s Resource Service continues with the intention to provide programming that provides valuable, useable tools to people in our community.

The History Center’s Living with History programming is supported by a Community Impact grant award of \$30,000 from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County Inc. With this funding, a variety of dementia friendly programming is being developed based on the artifacts and archives of the History Center for those living with dementia and Alzheimer’s along with their families and care partners.

The Monroe County History Center is a non-profit 501c3 whose mission is to collect, preserve, research, interpret and present the genealogy, history, and artifacts of Monroe County, Indiana and provide an accessible learning environment for all to enjoy.

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