

MEMORY LOSS CARE

A NEW COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO MEMORY LOSS AT LEEZA'S PLACE AT OLYMPIA MEDICAL CENTER

By Mark Ariel

During the past 20 years, Leeza Gibbons has been a TV news journalist and host, a radio personality, producer and businesswoman. A few years ago she formed the Leeza Gibbons Memory Foundation. "I promised my mother I would take her diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and use it to educate and inspire. We're doing that through Leeza's Place, intimate settings in cities across the country where the newly diagnosed

with any memory disorder and their caregivers can get education, empowerment and energy free of charge as they prepare for the journey ahead," says Gibbons.

Olympia Medical Center in Los Angeles has partnered with Leeza's Place.

"The reason we reached out to Olympia Medical Center was because of their Center For Geriatric Health," explains Leeza's Place Care Advocate Yael Wyte.

"They have an incredible one stop shop, geriatric health unit. The medical director and social workers have all been in the field for close to 20 years. We wanted to be an extension of the clinic, offering support to caregivers and families," says Wyte.

"Basically, Leeza's Place is an intimate and safe setting where caregivers and loved ones recently diagnosed with any memory disorder can gather for education and support, and to prepare themselves for the challenging journey ahead. Developed in response to the challenges Leeza Gibbons and her family encountered while seeking specific and needed support, Leeza's Place offers supportive settings for the purpose of educating, empowering & energizing."

"We take an integrated approach to issues involving memory loss," explains the Director of the Center of Geriatric health at Olympia medical center Sheila Moore, LCSW, MSG.

"As a smaller facility, patient health isn't compromised by long waits to see a physician or getting lost in a sea of hospital corridors. We provide an intimate



setting where we address the immediate needs of our patients. Our multi-specialty team spends a day conducting a comprehensive evaluation and executive physical. We understand that a full day away from job, family or daily responsibilities can be inconvenient, so we ensure that all doctor visits and testing is coordinated. For our clients who are unable to spend an entire day at the facility, appointments can be split into two visits."

Once the evaluation is completed, the Clinic's medical director sits down with the client and their family and/or caregiver, if the client wishes, to answer questions, discuss test results and talk about treatment options.

The Center for Geriatric Health keeps in mind the special needs of the family who care for frail, older adults. The center provides ongoing services to educate the caregivers and families by offering ongoing support groups for those caring for a memory impaired family member; educational events for families focusing on legal, medical and caregiving issues; and updates on Alzheimer's Disease and related topics.

For more information regarding support groups, educational events or to make an appointment please call 323.932.5333 or HealthyAging@olympicmc.com. To learn about all services offered by Olympia Medical Center please visit www.olympiamic.com