

Stress-Busting Program for Family Caregivers™



OVERVIEW

The Stress-Busting Program (SBP) for Family Caregivers™ is a program that provides support to family caregivers. It is proven to:

- Reduce caregiver stress
- Reduce anxiety
- Reduce anger/hostility
- Improve quality of life

THREE PROVEN PROGRAM FORMATS

The SBP is a train-the-trainer program where two certified facilitators meet with a small group (up to 8 people) of caregivers. The Stress-Busting Program is available in three formats:

- The Stress-Busting Program for Family Caregivers of Persons with Dementia
- The Stress-Busting Program for Spanish-Speaking Family Caregivers of Persons with Dementia
- The Stress-Busting Program for Family Caregivers of Persons with Chronic Conditions

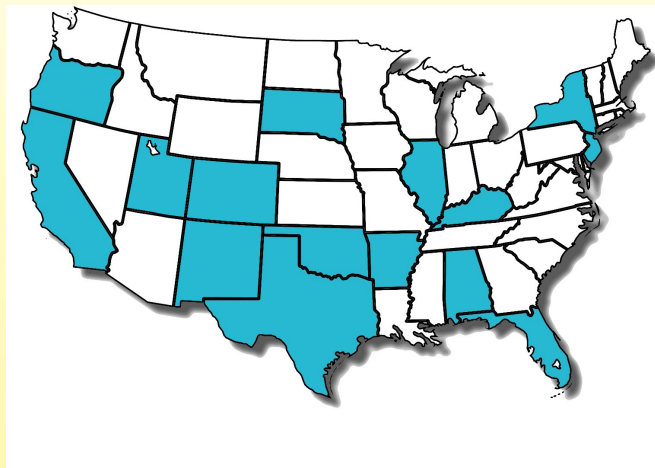
Week	Title and Content	Stress Management Technique
1	Getting Started: Group introductions, purpose, and expectations of program.	Relaxation Breathing
2	Stress: Effects on Mind, Body, and Spirit: Causes of stress, mind-body-spirit connections to stress.	Meditation
3	Caregiver Stress and Relaxation: Effects of stress, relaxation response, creating a relaxation environment.	Imagery
4	Facing Challenges: Understanding and managing difficult and challenging situations when caring for someone with dementia or a chronic illness.	Hand massage
5	Grief, Loss, and Depression: Grieving process and losses related to caring for someone with dementia or a chronic illness.	Art
6	Coping with Stress: Discussion of changeable and unchangeable stressors. Changing roles and relationships. Use of coping strategies.	Aromatherapy
7	Positive Thinking: Changing the way one can think (cognitive restructuring) and how to view situations in a more positive framework. Twisted thinking is discussed.	Journaling
8	Taking Care of Yourself: Healthy Living: Integrating the strategies learned in earlier sessions to help develop a healthier lifestyle. Emphasis on incorporating good nutrition and sleep habits, exercise, and hobbies into daily routines.	Music
9	Choosing a Path to Wellness: Final integration of first 8 sessions and applying it so caregivers will be empowered to take care of themselves. Caregivers create a plan to do this and focus on healthy living. Discuss assertiveness skills.	



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PROGRAM CREDIBILITY

1. From 1996-2010 the SBP was developed through research from the National Institutes of Health. From 2010-2012 the SBP was disseminated (with funding from the Administration on Aging in partnership with the WellMed Charitable Foundation) into the community in central and south Texas using a “master trainer-group facilitator” model.
2. **The SBP is currently recognized by the Administration on Aging as the highest-level criteria for an evidenced-based program and by the VA as an evidence-supported program.**
3. The SBP has demonstrated statistically significant reductions in caregiver stress, depression, anger/hostility, and anxiety, as well as improvements in sense of control and perceived quality of life.



States offering the Stress-Busting Program™ in blue.