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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parkinson's Foundation Announces Aware in Care Pilot Ambassador Program Coming to Charlotte

CHARLOTTE – MARCH 19, 2019 – The [Parkinson's Foundation](#) today announced the first members of its Aware in Care Ambassador Pilot Program. The dedicated volunteers, selected from a competitive pool of applications, are tasked with kicking off this new program to bring [Aware in Care](#) into more communities and hospitals around the country.

Ambassadors will work directly with the Parkinson's Foundation to share the Aware in Care kit, which consists of tools and information to share with hospital staff during a planned or emergency hospital visit, with their local communities and create connections in local hospitals to help change the culture and policies around Parkinson's care. A total of 120 members make up the newly appointed Aware in Care Ambassadors across 30 states, including North Carolina, to educate hospitals and communities nationwide on how to make life better for people with Parkinson's.

"I am thrilled to have been selected as an Aware in Care Ambassador by the Parkinson's Foundation and I am eager to lead my community as a Parkinson's advocate by strengthening our presence across hospitals nationwide through the Aware in Care campaign," said Cindy Leckey, Aware in Care Ambassador and local resident.

Since the launch of the Aware in Care campaign in 2011, the Parkinson's Foundation has distributed more than 75,000 Aware in Care kits, providing people with Parkinson's the tools they need to get the best care in the hospital. Recently, the Parkinson's Foundation conducted a survey of Aware in Care kit recipients. More than 95% of responses rated the kit as useful and 97% said they would recommend the kit, including almost 60% who had already recommended the kit to a loved one or community member.

"The Aware in Care kits are saving lives and helping tens of thousands of people with Parkinson's, but we need to share this important resource with more communities and

hospitals across the country,” said Anne Wallis, Parkinson’s Foundation associate director of education. “We can all play a role as Parkinson’s advocates to change the way that people with Parkinson’s receive care in hospitals.”

For more information about the Aware in Care kit, visit [Parkinson.org/AwareInCare](https://www.parkinson.org/AwareInCare) or call 1-800-4PD-INFO for a free kit today.

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About the Parkinson’s Foundation

The Parkinson’s Foundation makes life better for people with Parkinson’s disease by improving care and advancing research toward a cure. In everything we do, we build on the energy, experience and passion of our global Parkinson’s community. For more information, visit www.parkinson.org or call (800) 4PD-INFO (473-4636).

About Parkinson’s Disease

Affecting an estimated one million Americans and 10 million worldwide, Parkinson’s disease is the second-most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer’s and is the 14th-leading cause of death in the United States. It is associated with a progressive loss of motor control (e.g., shaking or tremor at rest and lack of facial expression), as well as non-motor symptoms (e.g., depression and anxiety). There is no cure for Parkinson’s and 60,000 new cases are diagnosed each year in the United States alone.