



ACCA Newsletter

November 2021



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For many of us, November means the Thanksgiving holiday and a time to reflect on our present circumstances, our experiences within the year and our life as a whole. For the Alameda County Collaborative Care Alliance, we approach this month as a time to lift up and celebrate Caregivers, most notably through our Annual Caregiver Recognition Celebration event (pre-COVID).

Throughout the COVID pandemic our ACCA team continues to be mindful of the resolute work of all Caregivers, family members, loved ones, and health professionals who have sacrificed and given so much to so many. For your unconditional love and care the ACCA Celebrates and says THANK YOU over and over again, because those two words alone don't always convey our deep appreciation for all you do!

Please join me in celebration and appreciation of our ACCA Caregiver, Arla, who generously shares her story and remind us all to Be Grateful every single day!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Carter Perrilliat".

Cynthia Carter Perrilliat, MPA
Director, ACCA



November is National Family Caregiver Month

In 2013, President Obama declared November as National Family Caregiver Month, as a way to recognize and raise awareness of the difficult job of a Caregiver who often provides around-the-clock care to a loved one. And during the pandemic, they experienced an additional burden due to increased isolation for both the Caregiver and their care recipient.

The ACCA's Advanced Illness Care Program works closely with Caregivers to help them identify existing resources within their own friends/family circle, and within the extended community.

As part of the Program, our Care Navigators work with Caregivers to help them identify ways they can support their own health, well-being, and spiritual needs, with the ultimate goal of empowering them. Many of our Care Navigators have been Caregivers themselves, and many are currently Caregivers. They understand so many of the challenges that our Caregiver participants encounter.

In this newsletter, we highlight the story of an ACCA Caregiver participant.

[Please consider making a donation to help us to continue to provide this essential support free of charge to Caregivers.](#)

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Arla's Story

Arla was a Caregiver for her mother, Ms. Joyce, for about 8 years. The last 2 years of that time Arla lived with her mom to provide her with extensive hands-on care. During those 8 years, Ms. Joyce's leg had to be amputated, which meant an increase in the need for physical support, making trips out of the house more challenging. Ms. Joyce spent her final few months in a skilled nursing facility and finally the hospital when she got to a point of refusing to eat.

Before moving in with her mother... [Read the rest of Arla's Story](#)

Los Angeles Faith and Health Consortium, 9/28: A virtual learning opportunity



On September 28th, the ACCA hosted the LA Faith and Health Consortium, bringing together African American Pastors and faith leaders and leaders from health organizations from the Los Angeles county region for an important conversation around two key questions:

- ***What do you do when your congregants and community members with serious illness and their caregivers ask for help in navigating the health systems?***
- ***How do you provide empowerment to congregants and community members with serious illness and their caregivers as they make decisions on the care they want or do not want?***

The virtual Consortium was a critical component of a year-long feasibility study funded by the California Health Care Foundation to determine if there is a need for and interest in bringing the ACCA's Advanced Illness Care Program to the LA County area.

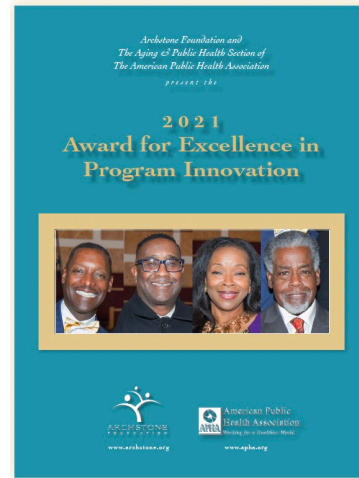
Feedback from both faith leader and health leader attendees described the Consortium as a rich opportunity to hear what is really happening in our Black and Brown communities, especially considering the impact of Covid-19 in Los Angeles County.

[Read more...](#)

ACCA Recognitions

Archstone Foundation 2021 Award for Excellence

In October, the ACCA was honored to be selected as the winner of the [2021 Award for Excellence in Program Innovation](#) for our Advanced Illness Care Program. Sponsored by Archstone Foundation, the Award for Excellence recognizes a non-profit organization with an innovative program in health and aging. The ACCA received this prestigious accolade at the national American Public Health Association (APHA) conference in October 2021 as part of the Aging & Public Health Section.



ACCA Highlighted at Grantmakers in Aging Annual Conference

In October, the ACCA was selected by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) to be highlighted at the National Grantmakers in Aging annual conference for our work in advancing health equity for persons with advanced illness and caregivers in communities of color. The conference is attended by representatives

from philanthropic organizations that on issues of aging.

A 40-minute video providing an overview of the ACCA's work was created and presented at the conference as a virtual ACCA "site-visit". The presentation was followed by a Q&A with the ACCA team to provide attendees with an introduction to our work.

We are grateful to CHCF for this incredible opportunity to have our story heard!

DONATE TODAY!



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ACCA is a program of Public Health Institute