



For Immediate Release

Date: July 28, 2009

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### **Suffolk County Elders' Stories to Become Part of the Library of Congress**



(Ronkonkoma...) Participants at Day Haven Adult Day Services were recently interviewed by their family members to have their life stories recorded by StoryCorps. The recordings will be archived in the Library of Congress as a resource and reference for generations to come.

StoryCorps began six years ago when a recording booth was placed in Grand Central Station in New York City so common Americans could record their stories. Since their inception over 19,000 interviews have been recorded in over 51 Towns and Cities in 38 states. As part of a Memory Loss Initiative, StoryCorps visited Day Haven to record the stories of 12 Suffolk County residents some of whom have Alzheimer's disease.

According to the StoryCorps website, [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org), StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. The heart of StoryCorps is the conversation between two people who are important to each other: a son asking his mother about her childhood, an immigrant telling his friend about coming to America, or a couple reminiscing on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Eighty-five year old Gladys from Stony Brook, NY, participated in the project. Her daughter, Jan, states that this project helps to honor her work as her mom's caregiver and the importance of her mother's life. Although Gladys has significant short-term memory loss, her verbal abilities are still intact. "Talking to mom about her earlier years is a good way to keep her engaged and active. Mom has a lot of great memories," states Jan. **In the enclosed photo, Gladys and her daughter Jan prepare for their StoryCorps interview.**

According to Elizabeth A. Geary, Director of Day Haven, "StoryCorps helps an older adult validate the importance of their life and unique history. For a family with a loved one with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, it is a significant way to preserve the memories of their mother or father."

For more information about Day Haven, contact Julie Wexler at (631) 585-2020. For more information about StoryCorps visit [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org).

#### About Day Haven Adult Day Services

Day Haven Adult Day Services is a social model adult day care program with centers in Port Jefferson and Ronkonkoma, NY, offering day time care and therapeutic recreation for frail older adults and those with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. Funding for Day Haven's caregiver services, including support groups, educational events and one-to-one support, is provided in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health Alzheimer's Community Services Program.

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