



Join With Us – Together We Can Make A Difference

The Dorothea C. White Foundation has been established to work for improvement in the care and treatment of our elderly citizens who have been admitted to Long Term Care facilities. Long Term Care facilities include skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and nursing homes. Often funded by Medicare and Medicaid, our tax dollars are paying for the care in these facilities, therefore, we the people have a stake in the outcome.

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, eye witness accounts and surveys have sadly shown that nursing home abuse and neglect is a serious problem and that there also is significant underreporting. Major underlying causes of elder mistreatment, according to the National Academy of Sciences Panel to Review Risk and Prevalence of Elder Abuse and Neglect, are:

- Stressful working conditions, particularly staff shortages
- Staff burnout
- Inadequate staff training

Our position is that this gloomy trend can be reversed, once we all understand the complexities of the causes and the appropriate solutions that can be applied nationwide.

It is a cruel paradox that the federal government is both the beneficent provider of reimbursement dollars and the chokepoint for their disbursement. The economic incentives are currently not slanted to insure that long-term care facilities can meet their expenses and have a positive bottom line. It is the patients that get caught in the middle.

We need a change at the national level that reimburses Long Term Care facilities based on patient results (outcomes), not treatment, as is currently done.

We would like to change that, but we need your help. And, quite frankly, everyone has a stake in what is happening in our nation's nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities because someday we will be the "elderly" that we are talking about. Many of us have already experienced this with a parent or grandparent.

[Some facts you need to know to make an informed decision about this cause](#)

When long term care facilities exist to help patients go home as their primary responsibility, they become Transitional Care Centers, assisting patients to make the bridge from a hospitalization, which has left the patient in a weakened state, to their highest level of functioning which may enable them to return home.

In order to change this sad state of affairs and create Transitional Care Centers, it is necessary to influence our legislators so that they know how we feel and know how to vote to please their constituencies. We the people need to let them know how we feel and what changes we want them to make.

There are two kinds of change in Washington D.C. – incremental change and sweeping change. **Incremental** change is the kind of change we usually see, step by step, little by little, over a period of many years. **Sweeping** change is practically overnight. It is the goal of the DC White Foundation to create sweeping change in eldercare.

Here is what **you** can do to help:

1. Join the Adopt A Patient program.
2. Write your legislator and ask for nursing home reform.