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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**WFCA receives grant to support family caregivers**

The West Falls Center for the Arts received a grant from the Communities Care Family Caregivers Respite Pilot Program that will support innovative solutions for caregiver respite. The project, called Memory Cafe, will host a Concert Series from noon - 1:00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The Memory Café is free of charge to all participants. Live music is performed by local professional musicians and lunch is served. The purpose of Memory Cafe is to address the incredible unmet support needs of caregivers providing loved ones with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other brain disorders with constant care. Memory Cafe offers a unique opportunity through the arts to gain knowledge, comfort, support, and a network with others who are experiencing the same challenges. The project will work to expand the Memory Cafe model to different locations as well as to include isolated seniors and caregivers in rural areas.

West Falls Center for the Arts Executive Director Carolyn Panzica is amazed how, "People who have trouble remembering how to walk, can put their feet together to dance. It is incredible to see the magic that music and fellowship offers participants".

About the Communities Care Respite Pilot Program:

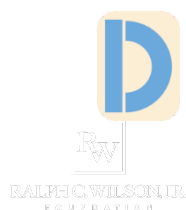
The Communities Care Family Caregivers Respite Pilot Program is funded by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation (RCWJRF) and the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York (HFWCNY), managed by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI) in partnership with Teresa Lawrence of International Deliverables. The program is funding innovative, collaborative projects that aim to increase respite opportunities for family caregivers of older adults in rural Western New York and beyond. Respite, a period of rest or relief, can play a key role in reinforcing caregiver well-being and effectiveness, and improved caregiver well-being can be linked to better health, social-emotional outcomes and lower costs of care for family caregivers (and for older adults they care for).

The funded projects emerged from an initial learning phase in 2019 and early 2020 which brought teams of organizations together to apply Creative Problem-Solving techniques and identify new strategies for supporting family caregivers. In addition to these grants, a learning community among the funded project teams will facilitate idea generation, relationship development and shared learning.

“Family caregivers play an essential role in the lives of older adults in our communities, and deserve support and recognition for their invaluable work,” said Ken Genewick, Program Officer for Caregiving, HFWCNY. “We are proud to partner on this initiative with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation with the goal of enabling organizations to team together and develop creative respite programs that provide a new level of support for our communities’ caregivers.”

The West Falls Center for the Arts is dedicated to bringing the arts to a rural community and providing a venue that encourages collaboration and growth between amateur and professional artists. We believe that creativity fuels life, enriches a community and is critical for future generations.

Visit our website for more information and Memory Café dates at [westfallsartcenter.org](http://westfallsartcenter.org) or email [westfallsartcenter@gmail.com](mailto:westfallsartcenter@gmail.com).



RALPH C. WILSON, JR.  
FOUNDATION