

Giving a Hand to Our Helping Hands!

AFTD Volunteer: Barbara Neufeld

AFTD truly appreciates our vast array of volunteers from across the United States and Canada. They offer unique talents, experiences and qualities that combine to make a strong volunteer network for AFTD. In New England, one volunteer stands out for her commitment to supporting other caregivers and increasing FTD awareness. Barbara Neufeld is an AFTD volunteer who conducted outreach facility visits this past winter and co-facilitates the Boston area FTD support group.

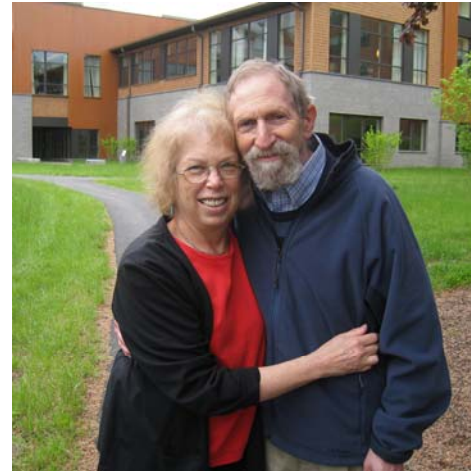
“Barbara is consistently reliable. This is amazing considering that she juggles so many roles: caregiver to her husband, professional, volunteer and friend. Wearing several hats, she is still able to follow through, which is important and reflects her dedication and commitment.” said Katie Brandt, New England regional coordinator volunteer.

Barbara became involved in facility outreach because she realized the need for FTD awareness based on personal experiences with her husband and the challenges she faced firsthand. Connecting with facility staff was easy for Barbara because of her professional skill set. Her frontline knowledge of what caregivers and staff needed to support FTD patients made the experience meaningful.

Barbara’s husband was diagnosed with FTD/PPA in December of 2007. The diagnosis helped explain what had been going on, but it left them unprepared for what would come. As her husband Eddie’s abilities declined and daily interactions became more frustrating, Barbara realized she needed help. She found the Boston area FTD support group online and went to her first meeting four years ago this past June. It was clear immediately to Barbara that this group would be a resource emotionally and that it could provide her with practical ideas.

When the support group needed a new facilitator, Barbara stepped up and volunteered. She wants to help members stay strong and maintain their ability to support their loved one with FTD. “Facilitating the FTD support group enables me to do something positive for others and for myself. As such, it is a rare opportunity, one I’m glad has come my way,” said Barbara.

AFTD is very grateful for Barbara’s awareness efforts and her willingness to support and be there for others facing such challenging circumstances.



Barbara and Eddie Neufeld