

"Just to be amongst an audience of caregivers and people thinking about caregiving and people working in the field that's actually a really a big gift, right?"

- Rea Tajiri, documentary filmmaker, *Wisdom Gone Wild*.

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On Tuesday, February 10th, Detroit PBS screened the POV documentary, *Wisdom Gone Wild* before a nearly sold-out crowd at the Michigan Theatre. The film takes us into the world of Rose, an elderly Japanese American suffering from dementia and her daughter, the filmmaker Rea Tajiri. A poetic, non-linear film, *Wisdom Gone Wild* is a meditation on Rose's ephemeral moods, her blurring of memories and identity, their family history, and Rea's bottomless well of patience.



Ed Moore  
VP of Content  
Detroit PBS

As my own mother takes her first few steps on her journey through dementia, I was struck by the grace and compassion that Rea displayed with Rose. Frustration and impatience could so easily be the default when dealing with dementia-driven mood swings and the endless repetition. Watching Rea handle each new situation with grace and patience and understanding rather than frustration and short-temperedness is a life lesson I will hopefully be able to carry with me.

In the panel discussion that followed, Dr. Tanav Popli from the University of Michigan's Department of Neurology summed it all up: "Something my patients and their families struggle with is [that] they're holding on to this idea that people stay the same. This idea of change being a process that we can't escape, but that we can learn how to deal with and manage."

I needed to hear that. Soon my mother won't be the same person I grew up with. But Rea and her film taught me that's OK. I'm not saying that accepting it will be easy, but to know that acceptance and even deriving new insights into who my mother is and was will be available and attainable.

Events like this make these connections possible. They bring people together. The storytelling. The sharing. The impact. During the Q&A, one audience member who also happened to be a current caregiver confessed to Rea, "You'll be walking the caregiving journey, you and Rose, will be walking that journey every step with me now."

May we all be so lucky.

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## CAREGIVING WATCH LIST



### [Missed the event in Ann Arbor?](#)

Check out highlights from the panel discussion featuring “Wisdom Gone Wild” director, Rea Tajiri, Peggy Du from the Association of Chinese Americans, Dr. Tanav Popli from the University of Michigan, and Shaista Kazmi from Sukoon Care.

[Watch Highlights](#)

[Watch Extended Panel](#)



### [Wine, Women, & Dementia](#)

Can you be a family caregiver for someone with dementia and keep your sense of humor? Join Kitty and her sister Lexie as they build a community of friends to help them with their journey of caring for their mother. Along the way, they find community and learn what it means to celebrate LIFE on the long road to death.

[Watch Now](#)

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## HOW LIKELY WILL A FAMILY FACE CAREGIVING FOR DEMENTIA?

According to the national Alzheimer’s Association, one in four households and families have an adult with dementia. That number rises to 37% within the extended families of older adults. An estimated 80% of the care of an older adult with dementia falls on family members – with long-term implications for their financial well-being and their own physical and mental health.

A University of Michigan study estimates that caregiving for a person with dementia carries a 50% higher workload than other health-related caregiving. Sarah Patterson at the Institute for Social Research says the broad network of helpers required for older adults with dementia needs to be considered when agencies design family support systems.

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## RESOURCES

Connecting in meaningful ways is important as dementia changes a loved one. For many dementia patients, participating in music or the arts can be a positive experience for them, and their caregivers.

CultureSource recently launched their *Exhale Memory Café Collective*. Sixteen organizations are now providing arts oriented respite services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston, and St. Clair counties.

The Cafés provide a chance for caregivers to network with other caregivers facing similar challenges, according to Misha Stallworth West, Program Officer for Caregivers at the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. But they do so much more. “Memory Cafés offer a breath of relief – a place for caregivers and their loved ones to reconnect through shared laughter, art and music, while building mutual support with others on the same journey.”

[Learn More](#)

The State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has a Dementia Roadmap online that has additional information, an eldercare locator tool, and resource links.

[Learn More](#)

Explore [MICaregiverConnection.com](https://www.micaregiverconnection.com) to help locate specific resources for your caregiving journey.

[Learn More](#)

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# Employer-Led Collaborative Summit

Addressing Challenges in the Direct Care Workforce as Employers and Businesses

## Tuesday, March 10, 2026

KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER  
EAST LANSING, MI

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Complimentary event with informational sessions, networking, and lunch provided.  
Host a resource table for your organization by registering as an Exhibitor.*



**REGISTER NOW**

<https://www.eventsquid.com/register/31061>

This project has been made possible through a grant awarded to IMPART Alliance by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 2, 2026**

## [Employer-Led Collaborative Summit](#)

Michigan employers are on the front lines of the direct care workforce challenge — and you're not alone. Join fellow business leaders on March 10 at the Employer-Led Collaborative Summit to share strategies, hear what's working, and explore how employers can play a meaningful role in supporting caregivers and strengthening the talent pipeline. Informational sessions, networking, and lunch are included.

**When:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, MI

[Reserve a Seat](#)



## [The Caregiving Crisis: National Story, Michigan Solutions](#)

Tune in for this Detroit PBS special, presented by IMPART Alliance, that weaves powerful scenes from Bradley Cooper's "Caregiving" documentary with in-studio conversations featuring leaders working across Michigan's caregiving landscape. Together, these stories reveal the growing national caregiving crisis and the urgent challenges faced by older adults, families, and both family and paid caregivers.

**When:** Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

**Where:** Watch live on Detroit PBS 56.1 or [stream live](#)

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