



# DEMENTIA Live®

## Case Study: Dementia Live® Educates Law Enforcement In North Central Texas

### Challenge

For persons with dementia, a personal encounter with first responders is often a frightening and dehumanizing experience. A lack of understanding about dementia and empathy for persons living with dementia by first responders many times results in a negative outcome. In order to address these challenges law enforcement and first responders need to understand how frightening this interaction can be, be educated about dementia and develop empathy toward these persons.

### Resolution

The North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Police Academy understand the importance of having dementia awareness and education for their recruits and sought out the resources of Dementia Friendly Fort Worth (DFFW). DFFW collaborates with community partners to advocate for systems change and provide education, resources and services that will enhance the lives of those living with dementia and their care partners.

### Participant Reactions

"Great class! I feel a little more confident talking about dementia and talking to someone with dementia. I have a better understanding about it. The instructors were great, very knowledgeable and helpful."

"Dementia Live was humbling in understanding people with dementia."

"This was one of the most organized and prepared classes we have had . . . I thought there was a perfect balance between staying optimistic and then understanding the severity of the subject."



### Overview

Since February 2021, DFFW has trained 216 Law Enforcement recruits, new and tenured, through the NCTCOG Regional Police Academy. Dementia Live® is an integral part of this training and is paired with dementia education including statistics, signs & symptoms, learning to recognize signs of dementia, as well as better ways for law enforcement to interact with persons with dementia. **The Dementia Live experience has helped them to experience empathy for people living with dementia.**

University of North Texas Health Science Center is partnering with DFFW to complete the data training evaluation tools. Preliminary results indicate an overall improvement in officer's confidence to recognize dementia and empathy in relating to persons with dementia. Officers completing the dementia training also receive information about resources available through local agencies who can further assist families of persons living with dementia.

### Outcomes

Thanks to a recent grant award, DFFW will continue to work with the Regional Police Academy over the next several years. The goal is that through this dementia training, law enforcement officers will enter the field with greater empathy and understanding and will have tools to improve the outcome in crisis situations. **DFFW is confident that the use of Dementia Live and other dementia training tools will result in additional successful interactions which will improve the quality of life for older adults and persons living with dementia.**