

## **Why Wally and Pat Cox are giving to Reimagining Dementia**

Hello. My name is Wally. I am a member of the Reimagining Dementia Coalition and living my life with meaning after a diagnosis of dementia. I was diagnosed at age 62 and today I am an advocate for myself and others living with this condition. I want to share how Reimagining Dementia and the opportunity to work with so many other leaders has transformed my experience of living with dementia and ask you to join me in giving to the Coalition so that together we can transform the lives of many others.

With a condition like dementia, knowledge about the disease process is not enough. Both the care partner and the person with the condition need connection and community to sustain them through the good and bad days. Reimagining dementia offers just such a thriving, inclusive and safe community.

You have to step off the merry-go-round of dementia where you are surrounded by scary thoughts about death, cognitive decline and end of life care. It makes you focus on all that you can't do anymore. The coalition helps you rediscover your "Can do!". I discovered that I loved creating art, singing and traveling in an RV. When I can't drive, I can still paint, when I can't paint I can still listen to music. There's so much life left and it's precious!

The coalition's virtual gatherings bring together people living with dementia, their care partners and professionals in this field. There is an opportunity to share about their life candidly, exchange ideas on how we can work together to impact the lives of people around the world – and perhaps most important, to laugh together.

During COVID, the coalition became an important part of my social life. I was part of a virtual community where I met others with this condition and felt connected to them through joyful activities. In fact, someone I met at a virtual gathering lives locally. She recently came to visit me and my wife while we were RVing in the town where she lives and we were overjoyed to see her in person! We would never have met if we had not been at the virtual gatherings.

I don't know about you, but I especially value the things I invest in both monetarily and with time. So if you believe that Reimagining Dementia is worth an investment, please join me in supporting the Coalition with a donation today. You would be connecting people throughout the world to an inclusive community where they feel seen and heard and fully invited to share their experiences.

Life is full of rewards, but the best rewards come from giving back!

Thanks for your support,

Wally