

# The Person Comes First -- Learning and Education for Those Who Work with People with Dementia

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Christian Living  
COMMUNITIES




Cappella LIVING  
SOLUTIONS

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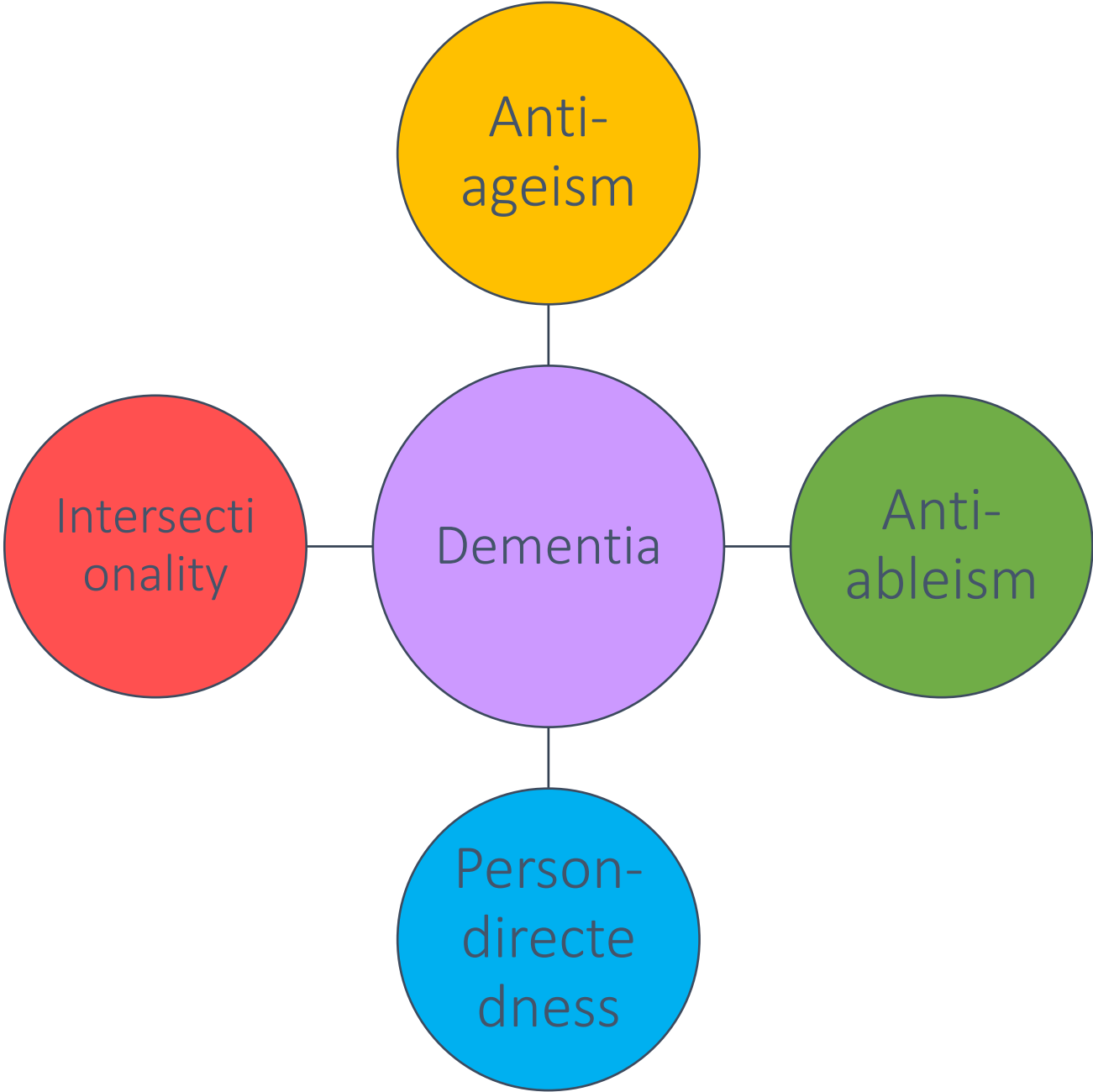
Sr. Director, Shared  
Learning Initiatives

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***Please share one thing  
you've learned from  
someone/people living  
with dementia***



# TYPES OF DEMENTIA

Dementia is an umbrella term for loss of memory and other thinking abilities severe enough to interfere with daily life.

- Alzheimer's
- Vascular
- Lewy body
- Frontotemporal
- Other, including Huntington's
- \* **Mixed dementia:** Dementia from more than one cause



Person-  
directedness

“Ask residents what they want to do...give them options...let them be part of the planning because that gives them ownership...that gives them comfort.”

-Brian LeBlanc







Anti-ageism



## Ageism:

1. discrimination against persons of a certain age group.

2. tendency to regard older persons as debilitated, unworthy of attention, or unsuitable for employment.



Anti-ableism

# Ableism:

discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities based on the belief that typical abilities are superior.





“We desperately need others to see our abilities and not simply focus on our inabilities. Please enable us, don’t further disable us.”

- Myriam Marquez

# What Happens When We See Dementia as a Disability?

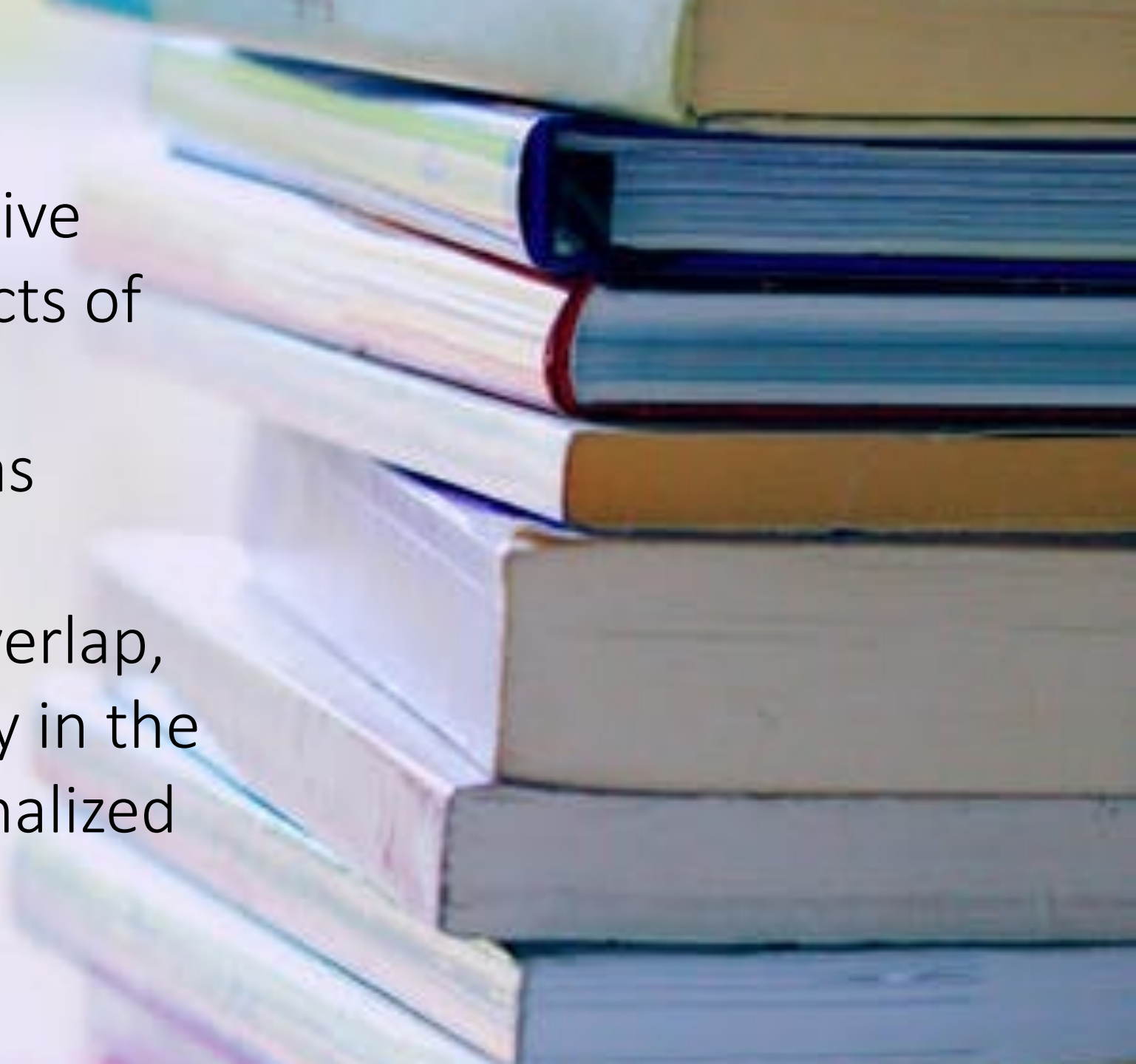




Intersectionality

## **Intersectionality:**

the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect, especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups.







“Our risk is twice the overall population’s, but I go to many conferences and I see only a few Black faces.”

-Brian Van Buren

# Principles

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- Dementia Education & Competency
- Person First, Strength-Based, Person-Directed
- Working with each person's natural Rhythm
- It takes a Village approach (person, family, team, community)
- Our Tool Box: Best Practices in the field
- Understanding, Anticipating and Preventing Unmet Needs
- Creating environments where each person can navigate the world successfully and live a life worth living.



# Shifting perspective

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**Dementia: A change in the way a person experiences the world around him/her**

“He’s confused because he has dementia”

vs.

“I’m confused because I don’t understand what she’s trying to tell me.”



# The Eden Alternative Domains of Well-Being®



- Identity**
- Connectedness**
- Security**
- Autonomy**
- Meaning**
- Growth**
- Joy**

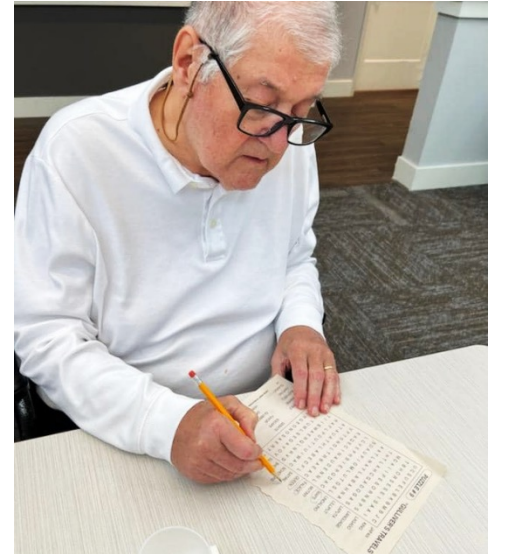
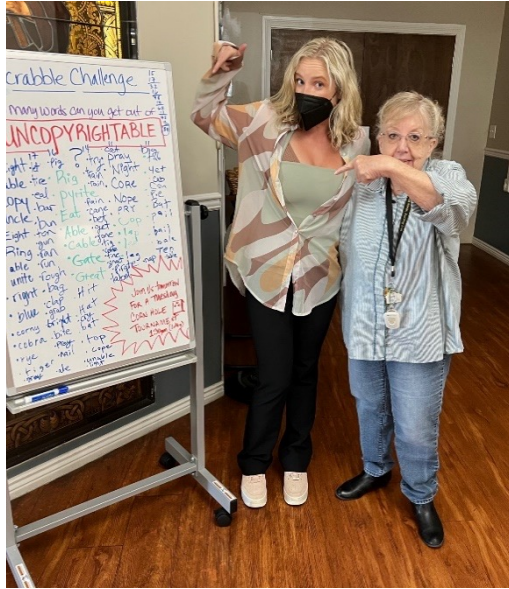




# Engagement Approach

- Based on individual interest, passion, abilities and gifts.
- Caring for your home (cleaning, sorting, planting, set up tables)
- Nourishing each other (meal prep, cooking & baking)
- Pillars of Wellness (SIPPS)
- Creative Expressions (art, music, improv, poetry, singing, museums)
- Family Engagement (Communication and support)
- Meaningful & Purposeful (Life Skills, Service Projects.)
- Comfort & Routines, balanced with New & Spontaneous
- Inclusivity- Opportunities to engage with a wider world (outings, intergenerational, pets, others neighbors.)

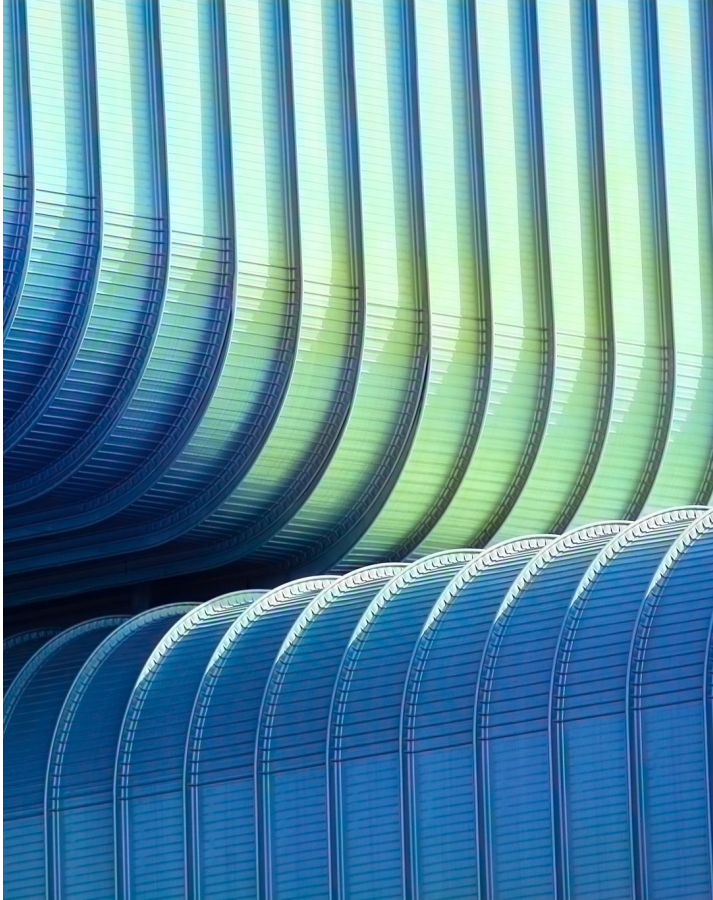




# We!Inness



# Pandemic Impact & Lessons Learned



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Isolation is deadly and contributes to cognitive, physical and emotional decline.

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People living with cognitive change continue to learn and adapt.

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Shifting from Surplus Safety to Wellness and Well-Being.

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Working together is essential! Cross Training, Huddles, Supporting Care Partner Teams.



Relationships, Knowledge,  
Skills & Practice



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