## PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## March 2023

Second Wind Dreams<sup>®</sup>, a pioneer in improving the quality of life for elders through innovative dementia care programs, is proud to announce a significant achievement in the state of Alabama. In a landmark initiative, 80 skilled nursing communities have been awarded the 2024 Bronze level of Empathic Dementia Care Certification, a testament to our fruitful partnership with the Alabama Nursing Home Association and the AL CMP Grants Department. This initiative centers on the deployment of The Virtual Dementia Tour<sup>®</sup> (VDT) across Alabama, marking a substantial step forward in dementia care and empathy training.

The Virtual Dementia Tour is an evidence-based platform that revolutionizes how caregivers understand and empathize with the daily experiences of those living with dementia. By temporarily modifying sensory and physical capabilities, the VDT provides a window into the world of dementia, offering critical insights and fostering profound empathy. This approach has shown remarkable outcomes, including reductions in psychoactive medication usage, decreased acute hospitalizations due to behavioral incidents, and provision of actionable strategies to support caregivers and families.

To date, the VDT's impact is extensive, reaching over 3 million individuals in healthcare, educational, and community settings. This initiative not only meets but exceeds federal mandates for additional training in memory impairment care, setting a new standard in empathetic and effective dementia care.

With 50 spots currently open through the CMP Grant, we urge interested communities to act swiftly. Certification opportunities are available on a first-come, first-served basis until September 1, 2024. For more information and to secure your community's place in this transformative program, please contact <u>amelia@secondwind.org</u>

## About Second Wind Dreams®:

Second Wind Dreams<sup>®</sup> is an internationally recognized non-profit organization dedicated to changing the perception of aging through the fulfillment of dreams and the innovative Virtual Dementia Tour, a scientifically proven method of building a greater understanding of dementia. Our efforts aim to create a society where elders are supported, understood, and valued, ultimately improving their quality of life.

For further information, please contact; amelia@secondwind.org or Abby@secondwind.org



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