

SONGS & SMILES

Informational Overview



Songs & Smiles co-founders Eric and Sheryl Kolb with Sheryl's mom, Trish, in 2017, sharing a moment of joy during the Alzheimer's journey. Eric and Sheryl helped care for Trish from the time of her diagnosis in 2008 until Alzheimer's took her life in 2019.



Volunteers at a Songs & Smiles event



Eric Kolb leading an online singalong

Why Songs & Smiles?

Alzheimer's destroys a person's connection with their own memories. But too often, the disease also destroys connections between people.

Songs & Smiles supports those who find themselves facing the challenges of Alzheimer's — people living with the disease and those caring for them. Songs and smiles are powerful tools for building connections, helping people living with Alzheimer's better connect with memories and emotions, as well as with family, friends, and communities.

Mission

Keeping Families Connected During the Alzheimer's Journey

Focus

Songs & Smiles is concerned with care, not the cure. Programs provide practical and positive care, focusing on supporting primary caregivers by involving family, friends, and communities.

Organization

- Nonprofit corporation established with State of Texas on Jan. 22, 2020.
- 501(c)(3) public charity status granted by Internal Revenue Service on April 28, 2020.
- Licensed to solicit charitable donations in all 50 states plus Washington, D.C.
- Earned GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency.



Leadership

- Sheryl Kolb (President), Melanie McGee (Treasurer), Stacey VanBeek (Secretary), John Ponder (Member, Board of Directors), and Eric Kolb (Executive Director).

Programs

- Singalongs — In-person at memory care facilities and senior centers in and around Grapevine, Texas. Online singalongs via website, Vimeo, YouTube, and Zoom.
- Educational Resources — Workshops, articles, and posts focused on five themes related to caregiving: grieving, resting, inviting, connecting, and celebrating.
- Printed Magazines — Two titles in planning stages: *Joyful Memories* (for people living with Alzheimer's) and *Songs & Smiles* (for family caregivers).

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