



## Benefits of a Caregiver Support Group

- Realizing you are not alone.

  Participants of a support group can gain a feeling of relief or identity by speaking with others about their issues and listening to the issues of others and come to realize that they are surprised by their overlap.
- Expressing your feelings.

  Having an outlet to speak and express feelings that may not otherwise have a place can help to build coping skills and a sense of community.
- Learning more about yourself.
  Sharing within a group of people can lead to discoveries about one's self.
- Lessening the emotional load.

  Having a space to share and communicate with others can lead to having an overall lighter emotional and mental load.
- Gaining and re-gaining hope.
  Seeing others in a group who are in similar and differing points in their life and their relationship to caregiving can inspire a feeling of hope.
- Socializing.

  Making specific time to speak and be spoken to can be a welcome change in the life of a busy and tired individual.
- Helping others.
  Sharing and making space for others to share can be helpful to others in a support group.
- Reducing distress, stress, and anxiety.
  Working through issues and concerns in a positive and supportive environment can lead to an easing of the feelings of distress and anxiety, and can lessen overall stress levels.
- **Getting practical advice and information from others.**Finding common ground and hearing the perspectives of others within a group can garner practical, useful information for coping and managing issues for participants of a group.