News

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Caring for Mom & Dad Spotlights the Gripping and Emotional Challenges of Caring for an Aging Population

Narrated by Meryl Streep, this hour-long documentary shares an intimate view of adults caring for their aging parents -
Thursday, May 7 on PBS (check local listings)

Boston, March 10, 2015 – Americans are living longer than ever before, and soon older adults will outnumber the young. Today, family caregivers are providing 90 percent of parent care, in addition to balancing work and family, a job most cannot afford to do.

Who will take care of those who can no longer care for themselves? How will the nation adapt to ensure that adequate care can be provided for both the caregivers and for those being cared for? ***Caring for Mom & Dad***, a new hour-long national documentary premiering **Thursday May 7, 2015 on PBS** (check local listings), seeks to answer these questions as it explores the emotional, health and financial challenges that many caregivers face every day.

Eight families welcome the filmmakers into their lives. These are intimate portraits of struggling caregivers like Breanna Olson, a millennial who was forced to choose between a promising political career and moving back home to care for her parents. Alicia Zepeda-Cervantes, a daughter thrust into caregiving almost overnight, now must learn how to provide medical services that would traditionally be taken on by a nurse.

The film also poignantly captures how families cope with the financial burdens brought on by this often unanticipated responsibility. As author and journalist Jane Gross explains, "your mother or your father better have a gazillion dollars, or by the time this is over, mom and dad are broke, and so are you."

Many working caregivers also confront work-related disruptions, including backing off from a career, working part-time, or quitting altogether. The compelling stories captured by the filmmakers bring to life a phenomenon faced by millions of baby boomers who are approaching retirement themselves, and are also grappling with the responsibilities of one or both of their parents' care.

Caring for Mom & Dad also offers solutions and tips to help others embarking on this new future. Viewers will step into the homes and lives of caregivers and hear from experts, as well as employers faced with helping caregivers cope in ways beneficial to the company and the caregiver.

"We're proud to present this film which we hope sparks a national conversation about this critical issue," says Laurie Donnelly, executive producer, WGBH. "*Caring for Mom & Dad* builds on the 2008 critically acclaimed *Caring for Your Parents*, looking at how these challenges play out at home and at work."

To learn more and access more helpful videos and resources for caregivers, visit pbs.org/caringformomanddad.

Production Credits/Funding
Caring for Mom & Dad is a Larkin McPhee Production for WGBH Boston. Producer, Director and Writer is Larkin McPhee. Executive Producer is Laurie Donnelly. *Caring for Mom & Dad* was made possible by AARP and Pfizer.

About WGBH:
WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcaster and the largest producer of PBS content for TV and the Web, including Masterpiece, Antiques Roadshow, Frontline, Nova, American Experience, Arthur, Curious George, and more than a dozen other prime-time, lifestyle, and children's series. WGBH's television channels include WGBH 2, WGBH 44, and the digital channels World and Create. WGBH TV productions focusing on the region's diverse community include Greater Boston, Basic Black, High School Quiz Show, and Neighborhood Kitchens. WGBH Radio serves listeners across New England with 89.7 WGBH, Boston Public Radio; Classical New England; and WCAI, the Cape and Islands NPR® Station. WGBH also is a major source of programs for public radio (among them, PRI's The World®), a leader in educational multimedia (including PBS LearningMedia™ , providing the nation's educators with free, curriculum-based digital content to meet the needs of 21st-century learners), and a pioneer in technologies and services that make media accessible to the 36 million Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, duPont-Columbia Awards…even two Oscars. Find more information at wgbh.org.

About PBS:
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