Our original ministry, Home Services, cared for thousands of individuals over 34 years. The Healing Community Board made the difficult decision to close Home Services on October 1, 2019, due to ongoing financial losses. Developed in 1985 to fill an unmet need, Home Services was one of 18 organizations providing non-medical in-home care in 2019, so the Board agreed our resources should be used in areas of greater need.

Community Care offers the only Adult Day Centers in Madison County which care for adults with dementia or other physical or intellectual impairments. Thanks to a variety of payment sources (State of Illinois; Veterans Administration), respite care funding by AgeSmart Community Resources and the Alzheimer’s Association, and the ability to offer partial scholarships funded by donations, all caregiving families can access this care.

Individuals in the early stages of memory loss or dementia do not yet need the care provided in our Adult Day Centers but often experience anxiety and depression as they struggle to cope with their devastating diagnosis. Brain Wave classes help them understand their condition, relate to others in comparable situations, and plan for their futures. Attending Brain Wave results in reduced depression and anxiety.

Supporting Family Caregivers is essential to enable them to continue their loving care, often 24 hours a day, except when using our Adult Day Center. In addition to our long-standing monthly Support Groups, we offer Savvy Caregiver classes to help caregivers develop and implement strategies to strengthen their caregiving and improve the lives of both the individual with dementia and other family members. In 2020 we will add classes to teach caregivers a variety of methods to reduce the stress which accompanies caring for someone with dementia.

AgeSmart Community Resources Area Agency on Aging offered Community Care a grant to combat social isolation by facilitating Memory Cafes in four communities. Cafes give individuals with dementia and their care partners an opportunity to enjoy activities and fellowship in a setting which accepts dementia-related behaviors. Three of the four are meeting and hope to build attendance.

Community Care is blessed to be able to leverage staff expertise and other resources to help the families who come to us live their best possible lives. Through our ministries, we make God’s love real.