



## Caregiving Youth Project of Pinellas

The first national survey, *Young Caregivers in the U.S.* conducted by the National Alliance of Caregiving and the United Hospital Fund in 2005 found that more than 1.3 million children between the ages of 8 and 18 serve as family caregivers. The majority (64%) of youth caregivers live in the same household as the care recipient.

- Who do most of the Caregiving Youth assist?
  - 38% assist a grand parent
  - 34% assist a parent
  - 11% of the care recipients are siblings
- The most common conditions of care recipients are:
  - 18% Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia
  - 16% Heart, Lung or Kidney Disease
  - 14% Diabetes
- The age breakdown of Caregiving Youth is:
  - 31% are between the ages of 8 and 11 years
  - 38% are between the ages of 12 and 15 years
  - 31% are between the ages of 16 and 18 years
- What are the responsibilities of Caregiving Youth?

The majority (58%) help with at least one activity of daily living

  - Bathing
  - Dressing
  - Transferring in and out of beds or chairs
  - Toileting
  - Feeding

In 2006, Largo Middle and Largo High Schools students self-reported that almost **1 in 3** have caregiving responsibilities.

- Of the 1,895 surveyed, 569 students indicated there was someone living with them requiring special medical care (30%).
- Of the 569 students with health issues in their family, 534 (93.8%) report they are assisting in care and are therefore Caregiving Youth:
  - 322 in Largo Middle School
  - 212 in Largo High School
- Of the 569 students nearly one half, 280 either agreed or strongly agreed that their participation in caregiving hindered their learning:
  - 167 in Largo Middle School
  - 113 in Largo High School
- Schools samples are culturally diverse – 36.9% students being Black, Hispanic Asian-Pacific Islander or another race.

In 2006, *The Silent Epidemic*, funded by the Gates Foundation, reported that among 16-25 year olds who had dropped out of school for personal reasons, 22% said they dropped out to care for someone at home.