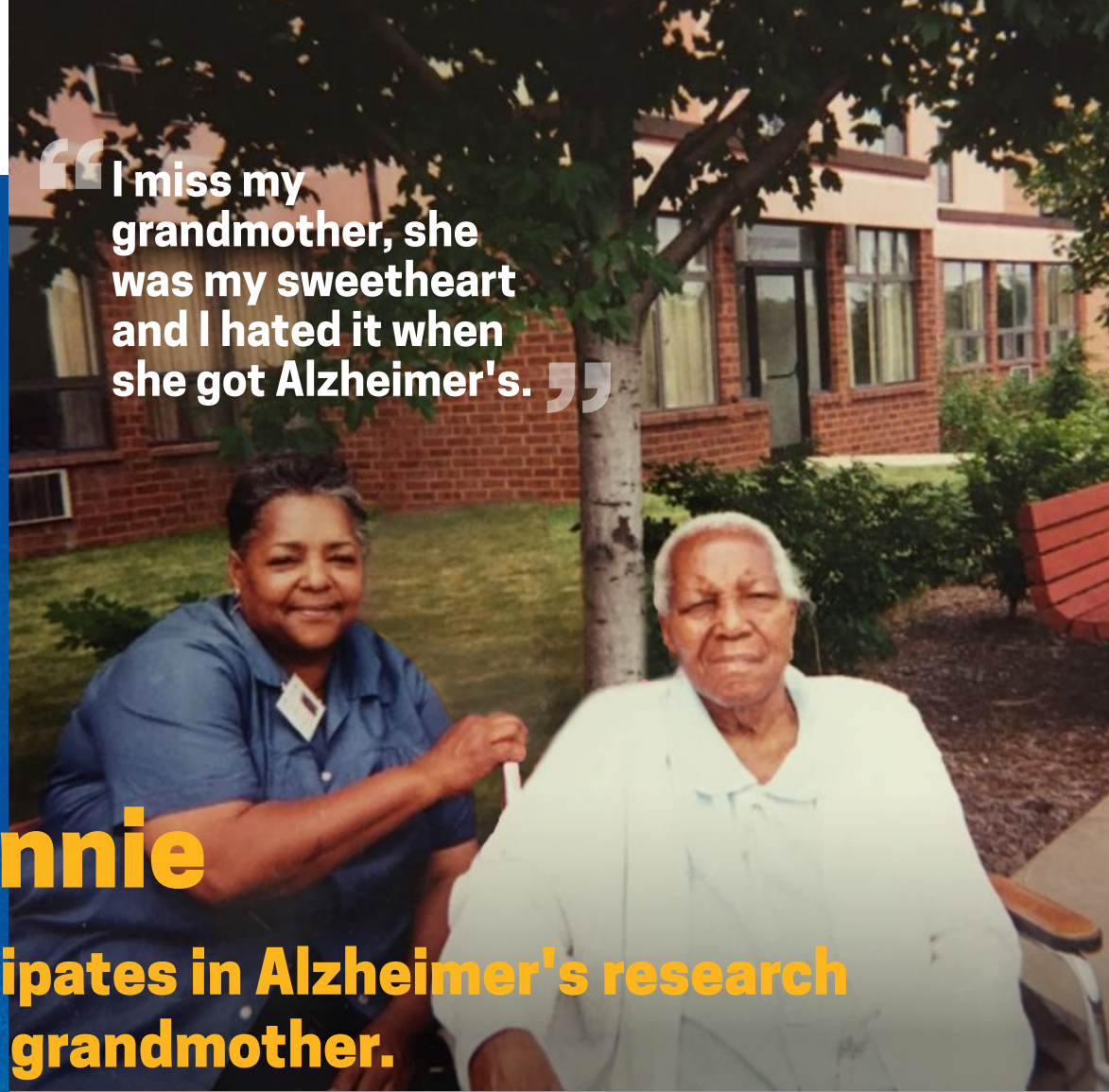


“I miss my grandmother, she was my sweetheart and I hated it when she got Alzheimer's.”

# Meet Annie

Annie participates in Alzheimer's research to honor her grandmother.



Annie, age 77, sat down with us to share her story as a research participant at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Read on to find out more about her motivation to get involved.

**Annie spent much of her childhood with her grandmother. She described growing up as “Grandmother’s girl.”**

“I stayed with my grandmother off and on until I was about eight. I spent most of my time with her. My mother used to say, ‘You’ve got to come home so you can be raised with the other two,’ because I was the oldest of three siblings. When she said that, I’d say, ‘But Grandmother spoils me!’ Yes, my grandmother was my sweetie, and I was hers.”



**Annie explained that, years later, she noticed her grandmother showing signs of having Alzheimer’s disease. Her grandmother would forget all kinds of things, even basic information about the family.**

“I remember she even became confused about who was who in our family. One time, she said to me, ‘You’re my daughter,’ without mentioning my mother. Another time, she said, ‘I don’t have a husband. I don’t have any children.’ Alzheimer’s wiped all that out.”



**Moved by the eventual loss of her grandmother to the disease, Annie took action by becoming a research participant at the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.**

“When I saw the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center sign, that made me say, ‘Well, I better join that because I want to learn more about the disease and figure out if I’m going to get the disease.’”

**Annie has been participating in studies at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center for 13 years and recognizes the importance of her participation.**

“I have enjoyed participating in research because it's about learning different things. You hear about so many diseases, and they don't have a cure or full understanding of them. That's why I'm interested in how people develop diseases like Alzheimer's and what researchers are doing to help.”

**Annie explained the purpose of research and how it has benefited people who are affected by Alzheimer's.**

“The main purpose of the research is to find something to help people. They're trying to find new medications to get on top of diseases like Alzheimer's. I think there is more help for people with Alzheimer's now than when my grandmother had it.”

**Annie said that even though she'd witnessed the effects of Alzheimer's disease firsthand, she learned even more about Alzheimer's through her participation with the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.**

“I didn't know much about the disease, just what I'd seen in my family. When I saw the flyer for the Alzheimer's study, I signed up right away! I keep coming back so they can use my information as a person who doesn't have the disease. They can then compare me to people who have it and find out how it progresses and where it starts and stops.”



Join Annie in becoming a research participant. Participating in research is a rewarding experience!

- **Honor a loved one** in the fight against Alzheimer's.
- Learn more about how your brain works.
- Feel good about helping others.
- Advance the search for a cure.

Contact the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center to learn more about becoming a research participant at **[adrc.pitt.edu](http://adrc.pitt.edu)** or **412-692-2700**.



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