Facing ALZHEIMER'S

A welcome home

How a Dallas man helps families with Alzheimer's

Last year, Paul Markowitz started noticing a decline in his mom's short-term memory.

"Finally, I decided to take the initiative after my mom started ramming her car into things, running into the fence, the white lines on the road confused her," says Markowitz, who was 26 years old at the time. "So I took her to a neurologist to get an MRI."

The results were 90 percent conclusive that his mom, Betty, was experiencing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Second and third opinions confirmed the diagnosis.

"It shocked me because I never thought I'd be going through this at such an young age," he says.

When it was recommended that his mother have some assistance, Markowitz began searching for a facility that would be able to meet his mom's needs.

After researching many senior living communities, he realized that he could take what he learned from his experiences and share that knowledge with others. One month later, Markowitz started Senior Living Specialists, a free service that helps families find communities for their loved ones that best suit their needs.

Markowitz meets with families to learn what they're looking for, the budget they have to work with and any benefits that may be available to them. Using that information, he then provides recommendations of three or four communities for the families to consider.

"When families get in this situation,

there's so much to take in at once and typically the stress level is high," he says. "Since I've personally been through it, I can help." As for his

mom, she "is proud of what I'm doing," he adds.

For more information, visit senior livingspecial ists.com.

