

MEETING AN UNRECOGNIZED NEED

Gramma was living in the same place she had lived for 40 years. She was legally blind, had some dementia, could no longer cook for herself and had begun to require a lot of personal care. Luckily for Gramma, her son and daughter-in-law lived just steps away. Because of their love and devotion, Gramma was able to stay at home. However, it became very apparent that Gramma needed 24 hour care. Her children were wearing themselves out. I had numerous conversations with Gramma about moving to assisted living. Her response was always "I don't want to leave my home". Gramma finally agreed to move when she was hospitalized and said "I'll try it". The first few days were tearful, but Gramma began to realize that she was not only being taken care of, she was being loved. Her new family quickly learned her personality...she like to laugh and joke and liked lots of attention. All of her caregivers gave her the hard time she loved. When she was feeling blue, they knew and gave her extra attention. They especially knew that she wanted bacon at all meals and had to have a box of tissue at all times! When I asked her how she was feeling about living at Bickford, her respnse was "I'm happy" and that was a huge statement for a lady who didn't want to leave her home. The extra mile the caregivers at Bickford gave to my grandmother in her last years will never be forgotten. Bickford is a treasure and my family will be forever grateful for the love my Gramma received.



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