

Conestoga View facility exceeds expectations

Intelligencer Journal

Lancaster New Era

Apr 08, 2010 08:59 EST

TO THE EDITORS:

Caring for our aging family members is a privilege. However, there comes a time when you are unable to meet all of their physical, psycho-social and safety needs.

Our family was faced with this concern last year. We visited many senior citizen facilities until we were satisfied with our choice; Conestoga View nursing facility.

Conestoga View has exceeded our expectations. Unfortunately, it is not given the accolades it deserves. Only when it becomes one of the top 10 stories of 2009 does it become notorious.

The staff writer of a previous article claimed Conestoga View is "the Lancaster County nursing home." The connotation of this term does not give a positive image. However, it is also noted to be the former Lancaster County "almshouse," a privately owned house for the poor, per Webster's definition.

Neither of these terms describes this special extended-care facility that our family has come to know. A building is merely bricks and mortar; it is the people inside who make the difference.

My father-in-law, or "Poppy," is surrounded by people who enjoy their vocation. Poppy looks healthier and is happier than he has been in a long time. He enjoys the camaraderie of others. They share war stories or discuss their previous occupations. He is respected as a friend, a resident and for the joy he brings to others.

Throughout this year, I have met many special people. Scott, his social worker; Juana, his personal care assistant; Therese, who keeps his room immaculate.

Then there are Laurie, his charge nurse, Joana, Tracey and the energetic activities' director, just to name a few. All of these people have touched Poppy's life and ours.

We are fortunate that Poppy can enjoy a game of bocce ball in the summer and a campfire on a beautiful fall evening. He also likes to play their version of "The Price Is Right." All of these activities stimulate his thought process and keeps him active.

He is also assisted to all of his physician appointments. They try to accommodate his every need.

I believe Poppy can give you the most accurate description of life at Conestoga View. When any of the staff asks if there is anything he needs, he replies "I really like it here. Everyone is so nice!"

That says it all!

Marci & Steve Knowles

East Hempfield Township