

Dear Friends,

November 19th, 2014

Have you heard Dave & Carol's story yet? It is a story that mirrors millions of other stories in this nation; thousands in your state. It is your neighbor's story...your fellow coworker's story....your own family member's story.



Married on December 5th, 1955, Dave & Carol will be celebrating 60 years of marriage next year. Their partnership in life has included travel, photography, art, and community involvement. They raised three children together and have nine grandchildren. Dave worked for OSU as a professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology and Carol worked as secretary in OSU's Department of Agriculture Engineering before transferring to the Athletic Department. After her career at OSU, Carol worked 10 years for the city in the Department of Parks and Recreation. They have lived in the Corvallis community for 50 years.

In 2005, **Carol was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at the age of 67.** At first there was not much noticeable change. Just a little more forgetful than usual, a little more dependent on Dave. Life went on and Dave and Carol continued in their hobbies and daily routines.

Doctors and medical researchers have created drugs to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease but no cure exists. Alzheimer's disease is **chronic and terminal.**

As the years went by, Carol's ability to engage with world around her diminished. She no longer could drive a car; she began to be unable to communicate her thoughts – the right words would just not come. Noise, light, any source of sensory stimulation became overwhelming at times. **Dave's role in his wife's life, after 40 years of marriage, was dramatically changing.** She needed him to be her memory; she needed his voice to speak for her; and she now needed help with almost every part of her day to day life.

An estimated **5.2 million Americans** have Alzheimer's disease. In 2013, 15.5 million family and friends provided 17.7 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

(source: Alzheimer's Association of America)

In 2010, their daughter began researching services in the community. Dave had to have open heart surgery and he needed help caring for Carol. **Dave's hope was to continue to care for Carol at home for as long as possible but he needed access to respite services to do so.** That is when Grace Center entered the picture.

Carol began attending Grace Center three afternoons a week. Due to her mid-stage Alzheimer's disease, she was reluctant about being in a new environment and showed signs of anxiety through anti-social behavior. The caring staff at Grace Center immediately began to work on creating a calming environment designed specifically for Carol and her needs. Once this was accomplished, it allowed for staff to then introduce creative care techniques with Carol which helped her gradually grow to not only accept her surrounding environment but also enjoy and positively interact with it.

Since 1983, Grace Center remains the **only** adult day center in Linn, Benton, and Polk counties. In addition to offering activities, exercise, and health monitoring, Grace Center specializes in memory care services.

Over time, Carol's attendance increased from a couple of hours a week to half days every day of the week, with daily showers provided. **Because of Grace Center's services, Dave and Carol were not prematurely separated by Alzheimer's disease; they were able to continue to live together in their own home.**

Grace Center's mission is to keep seniors and adults with disabilities independent and in home settings for as long possible, no matter their cognitive or physical abilities. We are helping to keep families together and our communities intergenerational by providing a new approach to long term care. **But we need your help.** Your financial contributions will help Grace Center continue to meet the growing need of adult day services for our tri-county service area. Here are some examples of how your money would be put to use:

\$100 provides a participant a weekly shower for 1 month

\$500 allows a family caregiver to attend a monthly support group/training for an entire year

\$1000 offers 2 participants 6 months' worth of weekly, 1 hour exercise and therapy sessions

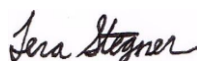
\$1500 enables Grace Center to expand on innovative memory care practices

Grace Center relies on the faithful financial giving of you, our supporter, to continue to provide affordable adult day services benefiting family caregivers and their loved ones. Thank you for caring about the community you live in and for supporting the many "Daves and Carols" who need us.

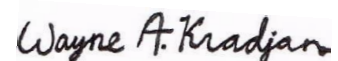
Sincerely,



Rene Knight
Director of Operations



Tera Stegner
Director of Community Relations



Wayne Kradjan
President of the Board

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