

To Whom It May Concern:

We cannot fully express our gratitude to Judy Berry and her wonderful staff for the care and dignity they gave to my Dad, Roger Olson for the last 6 months of his life. Dad had been in two nursing homes prior to moving to the Lakeview Ranch in Dassel. The first "Alzheimer's Unit" we found for Dad was located in a nursing home. They made us purchase jump suits that the resident could not remove without help (opened in the back) as he had been urinating "inappropriately". He was ejected from that "Alzheimer's Unit" after 4 weeks due to his aggressive behavior. We were told that his only option would be to go to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center, as they were the only place that would take Dad. We were given one day of notice to move him. They had him transferred to a mental health unit for medication. We found a nursing home that would "accept" Dad. They were better than the first, although they did not even have an "Alzheimer's Unit". However, the medications and over stimulation were basically making Dad a sleeping zombie. We were much stressed and basically grieving for a husband/father we had lost. I received many phone calls at work and at home regarding my dad and would have to leave work to handle the situation. It was very disruptive and costly to my employer. It got in the point where I was very nervous about answering the phone at work or at home. I would jump whenever the phone rang. I was not performing my job duties well and I was not in the best state of mind.

When we found the Lakeview Ranch and Judy accepted Dad as a resident in May 2003, it was as though a burden had been lifted. With the help of the staff at Lakeview Ranch, most of Dad's medications were reduced or stopped. The staff is given on-going training to deal with people with Alzheimer's/Dementia without all of the medications that strip them of their very essence! I no longer received phone calls regarding his behavior. It was such a joy and a relief for us to go to the "Ranch" to visit Dad and to see how caring the staff was with dad what good what good care he was receiving and actually see him smile at us. Judy and her staff are like family to their residents. It is obvious that they really care for those people and that means the world to the families of the residents. it is not the norm at other "facilities" where there appears to be a rule of no emotional attachment". The staff at the Lakeview Ranch made it possible for my dad to live his last few months with a sense of security and dignity and maintained Dad's essence for his family to the end in November, 2003. And again, most Alzheimer's/Dementia facilities that we have visited or spoken with do not keep residents until the end. They are moved once they have reached a certain stage, which can be very detrimental to the resident, causing them to backslide even further, never to be the same. Not to mention the burden and cost to the families of the resident.

We have vowed to do all that we as a family, can do to help Judy try to keep her homes as they are the best places we have found for people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. The Lakeview Ranch homes should be the prototype of what Alzheimer's/dementia homes provide for their residents. We know personally how much Judy has given of herself to build these homes, train her staff and to make the lives of her residents the best that they can be. It would break our hearts if she should have to abandon her dream.

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