

December 30, 2009

Dear Sirs:

I have known Judy Berry for over 20 years. My father was a resident of Lakeview Ranch in Darwin, MN for the last year of his life. I also witnessed Judy's struggle to find appropriate care for her mother.

In terms of community contributions, Lakeview Ranch has provided 90-100 jobs in rural MN. Judy has shown support to local organizations, fostering better connections between the elderly and young people and developed a program of trained volunteers.

Over the years I've known Judy, she has remained true to her principles with humility. I truly believe she does what she does to help others, not herself. One outstanding quality is her generosity. She pays for the schooling for a young man in Kenya. She provided a sewing machine to a woman she met to make school uniforms for her children and to continue to sew for a living. She hosted 2 people from Kenya, providing a place to live and work so they could support their families back home. She drove her own bus to New Orleans and helped relocate Katrina victims.

Personally, Judy has helped me grow as a person. She taught me not to take NO as an answer i.e. a college course was full and she told me to go to class anyway and afterward ask the professor if he'd let me in....it worked! She looks for opportunities and for creative ways around obstacles. An example is the Dementia Care Foundation that provides scholarships to residents on assistance to meet their cost of care. Residents can stay through the end of life with that scholarship help. Judy has been an example to other women showing strength, compassion and steely resolve. She credits her staff with her success. She shows me tenacity in that she has been pushed to the limit but has not compromised her commitment to the level of care she provides to residents and families.

Judy enjoys life and is 'forever young'. She is spontaneous as well as loyal and loving. Judy is "comfortable in her own skin" and enjoys the fact she gets "senior discounts" but she likes to go ice skating and build snow forts.

Judy Berry lives life in the here and now and to the fullest while offering the best of herself to others and her dreams of providing innovative dementia care to all who need it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Cantrell', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Carla Cantrell