



Meet Marion Rockwell, CGIII Resident

My mother was Marion Rockwell. She lived in Assisted Living at Culpepper Garden in Apt 846 for 4 ½ years. I'm sure she would still be here if her health hadn't failed, but she passed away when she was 79 years old after a very brief illness. I had many hugs and tears after mom passed with the staff at Culpepper Garden because they too cared very much about her. She wasn't just another resident to them. She was special to them. And that's the way the staff feels about everyone who lives here. Everyone here is special.



That was how my mother's story ended, but let me tell you how her life at Culpepper Garden began. In 2010 my family agreed that Ma, as our family called her, could no longer live in the house she had lived in for many years. Her doctor told us that my mother should not be living alone because her occasional forgetfulness and unstable health would put her in danger. It was then that we found Culpepper Garden, and the dedicated staff and involved families of other residents.

Ma went from being alone in a house in the country where, if no one came to visit, she really didn't see anyone except for when she went to the grocery store. Nearby family would come visit and include her activities when they could, but Ma was not one to take the initiative and "get busy." Well, when she came to Culpepper Garden, she got busy! Her outlook became more positive than I had seen in years, and she got physically active as well. She participated in committees, she led bingo every evening, she got a dog that she walked all the time, and she enjoyed as many of the other activities that she could. When she wasn't well, the staff would always take proper care of her, and they would always let me know how she was doing. I truly believe that if it wasn't for the comfort and compassion that she received here, my mother would have given up and left us long before she did. Her quality of life here surpassed all our expectations and for that my family will always be grateful.

Stories like my mother's are important to tell, not only to assure the members of other families that they made a wonderful choice in Culpepper Garden, but also because of the importance for Culpepper Garden to have the resources it needs to provide this type of care. My mother couldn't have stayed anywhere else for as long as she had stayed here. No one in my family could take care of her, and have given her the level of care the staff here routinely provides. I have come to learn that the competition for county, state, and federal resources is stiff, and that could put the quality of many lives at risk. We have to ensure that we can take care of our senior age people when they can't fully take care of themselves, and that Mary, and Elizabeth, and Linda, and Rosario – the amazing staff here -- can continue to do the caring and wonderful things they do, to make a difference in the lives of others.

(June 2018)