

## Testimonials

"My Mother's last months were made special by you and everyone at Respite who treated her with the utmost kindness and love. Although brief, I'm so happy she had the opportunity to make new friends and spend her days having fun with your special group."

"We so deeply appreciate your kindness and support for my husband and I through his last illness. You made his life so much better by the wonderful activities and love you provide in the Respite "club". Whenever Jim saw you, his face lit up. You, Ellen, and the rest of the staff do an outstanding job of making life pleasant for those who otherwise have so little joy in their lives. Thank you for your loving care."

"The trouble in our new town is that you all set too high a standard and nothing here comes close!"

"I want to tell you how very much the Respite program meant to Marian and me, and how it improved both of our lives while Marian was able to be part of it. Marian always enjoyed and looked forward to attending Respite. Although at times it was hard to get ready to leave the house, she never complained about having to get ready to go to Respite. Being there when she could was a high point in her day to day life. Undoubtedly the most enriching part of the program, for several reasons, was Marian's "Me Book". While she was still able to work on it, she enjoyed writing new sections; doing that gave her much pleasure as well as adding a special purpose to her life. For a long time after she was no longer adding new material on her own, she carried it and showed it to relatives and friends so that they could see what she had created and learn about her. She was very proud of the book. In recent days those in her family have been reading it again, feeling still close to her as we do so. Marian also enjoyed the art and craft projects that she worked on at Respite. I always found ways to display the results prominently at home, and she was proud of them and happy to be able to look at them. Other activities at Respite like seeing the visiting dogs, meeting the Master Gardeners, and hearing Library presentations were good and good for her. Singing always made her happy. In retrospect, though we didn't know it at the time, the Holiday Party that you held last December, in addition to some of our family Christmas get

together, was one of the last really joyous occasions that Marian experienced. the portrait that you had taken there is a wonderful permanent reminder of that happiness. Even after Marian had to stop attending Respite, visits and gifts like flowers and the quilt that Marian kept clutching in her bed, meant so much. I've listed several things that were special to us about the Respite program. But what is really meaningful, really important, is the love and acceptance that everyone who was a part of the program showed to both of us the whole time. Marian's life was so much richer, so much happier that it would have been otherwise, and my life was easier, because we were fortunate enough to be a part of the program. Thank you all so very much."