

Case Study:

Personalized Support in Residential Memory Care



The Client

Carl was unstoppable. He transformed a hamburger stand on the back of a trailer into a national restaurant chain, working well into his late 80s and winning awards for entrepreneurship along the way. He split his time between a lakeside home in Chicago and a luxury condo in Naples—water had always been central to his life. He spent summers in Door County, loved water sports, and filled rooms with his big laugh and even bigger presence.

But then the doorman in Naples began calling Carl's daughter, Deb, in the middle of the night. "Your dad's out walking again," he'd report. After a neurologist visit and a dementia diagnosis, it was those nighttime wanderings that convinced Deb her dad could no longer live alone. Yes, he'd seemed unstoppable—but dementia stopped him in his tracks.

The Challenge

Deb moved her father to an excellent assisted living facility in Chicago, where he had access to a concierge physical therapist, personal trainer, social activities, and meals. But something had shifted in Carl's brain—what we call the "start motor breaking." He still knew how to do things; he just wouldn't (or couldn't) initiate them anymore. He stayed in his room. Refused to bathe for weeks at a time. Rejected his caregivers and even his daughter. The man who had commanded the spotlight at industry events was now isolating himself in a complete reversal of his former personality.

The facility hoped the specialized environment of their memory care unit would help. It didn't. Carl stayed in bed, wore the same clothes for days, and continued to show no interest in anyone or anything. He was far from the force of nature that Deb grew up with—in fact, he barely seemed like her dad at all.

So she made a decision that would change her father's path.

The Solution

Deb refused to let dementia shrink her larger-than-life father. She wanted him to find joy again, in the world he used to love. She understood what many families don't: a diagnosis isn't a death sentence. With personalized care, Carl had the potential for a much higher quality of life.

That's when she brought Full Bloom in to help.

Partnering with Carl's care team at the facility, we developed what became his roadmap back to himself—an activity-based daily schedule built around Carl's interests and capabilities. Our full-time Memory Care Partners balance structure with variety, stimulation, and rest (and a healthy dose of watching the Cubs).

The difference was transformative.

Carl always had the potential to live fully again. He just needed a team to believe in it—and help him make every day a joyful one.



The Outcome

Today, the man who once isolated in his room now eats lunch with a friend. He's open, social, and shows glimpses of who he used to be.

He's quieter now though, more reserved. Dementia has changed him, but we've helped him find ways to engage that work within his new reality. He's become the facility's resident Uno King. He goes on weekly outings to Forest Park Beach. He attends PT appointments and makes full use of the community's garden, social events, and fitness center.

Most importantly for Deb, her relationship with her father has been transformed. It's not all about stress and worry anymore. She trusts us to work with the facility to provide holistic care that keeps her father safe, healthy, and engaged. Now, when she visits, Deb can simply enjoy their time together.

Deb made sure her father's world wouldn't shrink. She found the right support to layer into his community's excellent resources. He'd always had the potential to live fully again. He just needed a team to believe in it—and help him make every day a joyful one.

Contact us for a free consultation today. We'll explain our one-on-one approach to dementia care, and how we can reconnect you with the person you love.

Call 847-407-1450 or visit www.fullbloommemorycare.com

