

Case Study:

From Isolation to Connection— Stabilizing a Complex Dementia Journey



The Client

Janet would have bristled at being called a “shut-in.” She was simply an independent woman who had lived in her childhood home for eight decades and was perfectly capable of taking care of herself, thank you very much.

But her nephew Mike knew better. Behind his aunt’s determined facade, dementia was unraveling her world. She hadn’t left the house in five years except for doctor visits. Her social life had narrowed to late-night phone calls with her siblings and visits from the hairdresser. When church volunteers found her on the

floor after a fall, the impossible situation Mike had dreaded finally arrived. He lived in Minneapolis; how was he going to keep his aunt safe and engaged? How could he keep her passions alive: opera, classic films, Italian meatballs? Janet had built a life on her own terms—how could he take those terms away?

So he reached out to a geriatric care manager named Beth—and Beth had answers to all those questions.

The Challenge

Beth discovered that Janet had been given a prescription for an old-school, heavy-duty medication that kept her sedated and disoriented. She also learned that a caregiver was stealing from her. The family dynamics were a minefield, Janet was having mini-strokes, and to make it all the more challenging, her iron will had been honed over 80 years of calling her own shots.

Traditional home care agencies wouldn’t touch this case. The level of dementia expertise required, combined with Janet’s complex medical needs and family chaos, was beyond their scope. But Beth and Mike knew they needed a partner who could handle what was coming—because what was coming would test everyone involved.

The Solution

Beth called Full Bloom because she’d heard about our specialized dementia care. Working together, we ended the financial abuse and stabilized Janet’s legal situation, helping transfer power of attorney when it became clear she could no longer make her own decisions. We fielded concerns and questions from her extended family and helped develop an approach that Janet could tolerate: no fake sweetness, no orders, lots of choices.

We problem-solved ways to keep Janet calm and healthy: creating sensory anchors with essential oils, adjusting approaches when medications caused behavioral changes, finding creative ways to convince Janet to eat, and tag-teaming responsibilities on weekends when regular care wasn’t scheduled. The difference was transformative.

Today, Janet is thriving in ways that seemed impossible just a few months ago.



With support from the Full Bloom team, and under Beth's coordination, Janet began to thrive. She started watching her favorite movies again, and wanted to go out to eat (Italian meatballs!) after doctor appointments. She formed genuine relationships with her caregivers. Most impressively, Beth helped her through two dental surgeries—a feat that requires meticulous attention to protocol over weeks of recovery, and is especially challenging with someone who has dementia.

But while dementia can be slowed, it can't be stopped. Eventually, safety concerns led to the decision to move Janet to a memory care facility. For many geriatric care managers, that move would be the end of the engagement. Not for Beth. Beth helped coordinate the transition to memory care, working with us to gradually introduce Janet to the idea, reduce care hours slowly, and ensure the move happened as smoothly as possible.

The Outcome

Today, Janet is thriving in ways that seemed impossible just a few months ago.

The woman who hadn't left home in five years now eagerly anticipates movie night at the local theatre (after a plate of Italian meatballs of course). She's engaging in activities both at the facility and in the community, rediscovering the joy of connection.

Beth made this transformation possible: her coordination with the memory care facility, Full Bloom caregivers, Mike, and the rest of Janet's family helped ease Janet's transition, and encouraged her to engage with what she loves.

Beth refuses to let dementia define the boundaries of Janet's life—and to Janet, that means the world.

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

