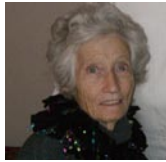




SERENDIPITY SUCCESS STORY



My mother has Alzheimer's and has not been able to care for herself for several years. She lived in a very small town in Kansas as the symptoms set in and when she progressed to the point of forgetting to eat and take her medication, my older sister moved Mom into her home. My older sister is single and for a while was able to care for Mom before and after work.

When Mom got to the point it was not safe to leave her alone during the work day my youngest sister moved her to Colorado where she and her family cared for Mom for some time. My youngest sister lives in a small home which required their teenage daughter and young son to share a room while Mom was there.

I brought Mom to Alaska when my youngest sister called and asked me to "rescue" her family. We felt we would be able to make Mom comfortable in our home for awhile--until we could no longer manage her care. I warned my sisters that if we needed assistance I would look for nursing home care here in Alaska.

We worried Mom would be overwhelmed, but she settled into our busy, very hectic household. We have a large family and were able to shuffle schedules to ensure Mom was always with someone responsible.

As our children started moving out, we began looking for part time options but found nursing care too expensive for her budget. Mom is in good health, except for dementia, so she only needs companionship to ensure she is safe.

I called the Salvation Army's Serendipity Adult Day Care Center to see if Mom would be able to attend. We visited the facility and talked to the staff, then completed an application and found Mom would be charged on a sliding fee scale, making the expenses very manageable with her limited income.

Serendipity is a delightful place to spend time and every day Mom attends she tells me how wonderful they make her feel. When I assumed I would have to resort to nursing home care for Mom I found Serendipity and we have been able to keep her home where she belongs.
