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The most wonderful part about hospice is that you can stay in your house. People need to know that."*



Elizabeth Bradford

An independent woman

Elizabeth, at 91, has been diagnosed with dementia. When the family first heard about Willamette Valley Hospice services, Elizabeth was going through a very difficult time physically and emotionally. She had stopped eating and was losing weight rapidly. When Elizabeth first came onto hospice services, she was “at death’s door.” Three months later, she is “more like me, like my old self.” Willamette Valley Hospice staff “changed everything for the good.” Elizabeth sums it up by saying, “hospice saved my life.”

Elizabeth was born in Iowa and grew up in Minnesota. She was a “modern gal” who went to the University of Minnesota for 1 ½ years and “majored in partying.” She was married for 52 wonderful years to her loving husband, Marve, who was a traveling salesman. He would telegraph her from the road and Elizabeth has copies of many of these telegrams in her memory book. Elizabeth lives with her only daughter, Mary Lynn, and her son-in-law. Mary Lynn says, “mom has always been very independent; even now she’ll tell me that she can do things for herself.” Elizabeth lived in her own home and did everything on her own until just 2 years ago when she first started showing signs of dementia. She says she is lucky to be able to live with her daughter. “If they had carted me off to a hospital, I am sure I would have died the next day.” Elizabeth says that the most wonderful part about hospice is that, “you can stay in your house.” “People need to know that.”

Photographed by Susan May