

*“I draw my strength and love of life from my loving husband, Rick,
and we feel like every day is a gift.”*



Raeann Schnacky

Photographed by Diane Stevenson

A spirit of life at the end of life

Raeann is diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) but she doesn't feel sorry for herself, she has too much to do. Raeann passes each day on her feet leaning on her elbows to prevent leg swelling and pain. She spends her time in her home filled with family photos, memories, antiques and beautiful stained-glass windows created by her husband of 24 years, Rick. From her loving husband, Rick, Raeann draws her strength and love of life. Both are Oregon natives and according to Raeann, “Rick and I have known each other forever; we have a good time together.”

Raeann and Rick have 2 children and 7 grandchildren who live out of state. Raeann misses, “her babies,” the grandchildren. Raeann also misses going out to eat. In the past 2 years, she has only been out of her home 9 times as she doesn't have the energy for a lot of exertion. But that doesn't stop her from enjoying her life to the fullest. Raeann is an avid jigsaw puzzler and an outgoing “people person” willing to share her lively sense of humor with any visitor. Rick and Raeann state that they are so grateful for the care and comfort they have received since beginning services with Willamette Valley Hospice. “We are so fortunate for them and could not have done it without them.” Rick and Raeann feel like every day is a gift. Raeann is an inspiration whose spirit and exuberance for life are alive and well.