

Friendship & *Laughter*

How Randall and Marlene built a life-giving connection that's standing the test of time

Randall is 75 years old, even though he says he doesn't feel that old. He considers himself to be an artist, a fisherman, a hunter...but most of all, he's a jokester. Indeed, his sense of humor never stops!

Marlene and Randall met more than a decade ago when she began serving as his part-time Direct Care Worker. She enjoyed his sense of humor and his ability to find the positive in most situations.

Over time, Marlene got more involved in his regular care, helping to ensure a successful recovery following surgery and managing his other medical issues. The two developed a special connection and she began helping Randall keep his appointments and regular affairs in order.

Their bond became so strong that Marlene became Randall's legal guardian after she retired.

Although he has had his share of health problems throughout the years—including a few stints in hospice!—his Direct Care Workers have aided his recovery and ensured his ongoing well-being. Randall has four regular Direct Care Workers who help him with everything from getting to and from appointments to taking him on fun outings like the casino (one of his very favorite places to have fun).

The relationship that Randall has built with Marlene and his caregivers helps keep him not only safe and stable, but thriving and enjoying life. Randall's caregivers not only take good care of him, they support him in making good decisions, according to Marlene.

In the past, for example, Randall wouldn't have considered going to the dentist—or he wouldn't get out of the car for the appointment, even if he did go. Now, with the loving support of his Direct Care Workers, Randall is confident and ready to take on these experiences.

It's the unwavering assistance of his Direct Care Workers that allow Randall to live independently and enjoy the things that he loves. With the care he's getting at home, he's able to do what he really wants to do and that is making the world of difference in his life.

