

I wanted to convey my thoughts about our experience at First Community Village. Having been a social worker in long-term care for many years, I am familiar with various retirement communities throughout the Central Ohio Area, so when my own parents needed a new place to call home, First Community Village was one of my top choices. It becomes a fine balance where sometimes adult children have to make a difficult decision on behalf of their parents. They find themselves weighing quality of life versus quantity of life, of happiness versus safety, of great care versus care that comes from the heart. The hope is of course, that none of it has to be sacrificed. My parents lived independently for years in their home of almost 50 years. In 2019 my father survived a massive stroke and had to learn to reconcile his life with new limitations and needed 24-hour care with skilled nursing and rehabilitation from the Health Center. My mother was not able to manage their home without him and wanting to be nearby to wherever he was, moved into an apartment in The Burkhart Assisted Living. Sadly, my father passed away in 2020 but my mother has chosen to remain in her apartment.

There was never a thought to considering anything but a full continuing care community that offered the variety of healthcare options for various needs now and in the future. My mother was able to visit my father in the Health Center whenever she wished. The staff in the Health Center was amazing. The staff in The Burkhart have gotten to know her really well and are also amazing. They would take her to visit him whenever she wished if it was a day that she needed more physical help. If she missed her meal because she was out of the building with me or because she was visiting my father, the staff would make sure she had something to eat. They continue to encourage her to be as independent as she wants to be, from managing her medications to which activities she wants to attend. In both areas, my family has had wonderful experiences. My mom knows that the Health Center is there for her if the day comes when she needs it.

Sometimes in life we are fortunate enough to come across those individuals who are gifted and truly meant to do what they are called to do. The staff at FCV has been that way for us, from the chaplains, to the dining services, to the therapy, to the state-tested nursing assistants, to the hospice staff, to the nurses and activity staff. They take the time to care and to get to know the residents. My parents have never been just names on a doorplate to them. The dining services staff know what my mom likes and all the staff in all departments know her by name and are kind to her. Skills, tasks, and duties can all be taught, but not heart and sincerity which have to be inherent.

As that adult daughter who has had to weigh all those things I discussed earlier, I can truly say that none of the things I was worried about have been sacrificed. Both my parents have felt important, cared for, and loved, which at the end of the day is absolutely the most essential part.

Sincerely,
Kimberly H