

More Than a Senior Living Community

My name is Cheryl Nutley, and I am the daughter of Robert Felinczak, who was a resident at Peace Village from 2019 until he passed away earlier this year. During his four years there, he was shown nothing less than care and compassion by the residents and staff there.

I am writing this letter to express the impact that Peace Village had on my dad's (and my) life. After my mom passed away in 2017, I became concerned about my dad's welfare. I worked downtown, and I wasn't able to check-in on him as often as I needed to. My dad knew he needed some extra care and was willing to look at Peace Village after a friend's mother who had lived there and recommended it. As soon as we walked into the building on the day of our tour, we knew we were in a special place. From being greeted very positively by the front desk staff, seeing other residents walking around, and learning that my dad could get his own apartment to live in, and he realized it was affordable...any apprehension that either of us had went away. The professionalism and care shown us on that initial visit removed any doubts, and my dad said, "Ok, let's do this."

Moving into his Independent Living apartment was the biggest weight off my shoulders. My dad participated in the "I'm ok" program, which gave us both peace of mind to know that someone was checking in on him every day. I know my dad felt safe and not alone. It took a few months for him to settle in, but the friendly environment and care shown him by all the staff made it a much easier transition. Every staff person made it their mission to know my dad's name and greet him accordingly.

During his time in Independent Living, Dad utilized the in-house physical therapy and podiatry services that were offered. They were truly a lifesaver for me and took away a lot of the pressure of having to coordinate transportation for him.

My dad was fortunate to live at Peace during the Covid pandemic, which was a very unpredictable and scary time for many. As most children with elderly parents did, I was very concerned about his health and well-being. In my experience, Peace Village did a remarkable job of keeping the residents happy and safe during what was such an isolating experience, and I knew my dad would be well taken care of and healthy.

After a couple of years, my dad started having a lot of falls and had a few hospital stays that left him weak and unable to stay in Independent Living. I made an appointment with the staff to discuss the option of moving him to Assisted Living. Staff members were understanding, helpful, and made this transition into his new apartment an easy one. We had the peace of mind that the extra help he was going to need to keep his day to day living as normal as possible.

Earlier this year, Dad took a turn for the worse and was ready for hospice care. We were so grateful he could stay in the apartment for the end stage of his life. This had become home and that is where he wanted to be.

I spent the last week staying with my dad in his apartment and everyone was not only checking on my dad, but making sure that I was comfortable. The outpouring of love and concern from the residents was remarkable. They all did really become a family. My dad was not much of a joiner in the activities, but it was so nice to see how many residents he did know and who cared about him.

My dad passed away in the middle of the night. The two CNA's on duty came in and sat with me while we waited for Dad to be picked up. We shared a few stories about my Dad and it was very comforting.

Peace Village was not only my dad's home, but it became my second family as well. I've been happy to donate and volunteer my time at Peace Village since my dad moved in. I've seen the impact my donation makes to the residents, and it really makes me feel good to know that my money is going to directly help them. The fact that the Lora Contorno Benevolent Fund existed was a huge comfort for me. It made me feel good to know that if my Dad was there long enough and ran out of money, there was some kind of financial assistance available and that he could stay in the place that he called home.

If you're receiving this letter, it means that you have personally experienced Peace Village in some capacity. If you had a family member live here, you have also experienced the level of care and compassion that your family member received. There are a variety of ways you can make a difference, and I encourage you to consider giving back to this great organization, especially if your or your family member's experience was a positive one. Please see the enclosure for a list of ways that you can give back to this amazing organization that truly treats the elderly with kindness, love and respect.

With gratitude,



