

***“Beyond the necessities, Sweet Home At Last consistently provided a loving human touch which honored Mom with the dignity and quality of life she deserved till the end. “***

My sweet Mom was always meticulous in her care for her home and her personal grooming. She found joy in being surrounded by the beautiful and meaningful things that reminded her of the people dearest to her heart. When she could no longer live independently, the decision of who I could trust with her care was daunting and weighed heavy on my heart.

I began an online search for both assisted living facilities and nursing homes in the Central Florida area. Upon visiting them, I would leave one after another sorely disappointed - even appalled – or having found the cost of a quality care facility well beyond our budget. When I discovered ***Sweet Home At Last***, I was immediately impressed by the welcoming staff. It had a homey feel, cleanliness in every space, and it was obvious the residents were happy and well cared for. While touring the facility, I was introduced to several smiling ladies gathered to watch “The Golden Girls”. One offered a handshake from her comfy recliner and said “I really love living here”. That atmosphere of belonging and feeling a part of a family was our experience – Mom’s experience - from the first day to the last.

The moment Mom moved in, she felt right at home. Having the option to personalize her room with the things she cherished made the new surroundings seem familiar, safe, and relaxing. From day one, Director Andrea Caine and staff began to actively engage Mom in conversation. They sang to her, joked with her, read and re-read mail to her, and patiently feed Mom her specially blended meals, smoothies, and her daily favorite: strawberries and vanilla ice cream. I was *never* disappointed in their attentiveness. On several unannounced visits I found Andrea rubbing Mom down with lotion or applying lipstick and brushing her hair. Beyond the necessities, Sweet Home At Last consistently provided a loving human touch which honored Mom with the dignity and quality of life she deserved till the end.

Visits from family, friends, and clergy were welcomed and encouraged; and the staff happily accommodated us when our entire family gathered to celebrate special occasions with Mother. Andrea kept us well informed about health issues or Mom’s needs or requests in a timely manner. And, when Mom’s last days were

upon us, Vitas Hospice services stepped in to provide the extra medical care Mom needed on site. They worked seamlessly with the on duty staff to provide for Mom's optimum comfort.

It's impossible to express the enormous gratitude I have for Sweet Home At Last's staff whose gentle, professional, and loving care helped us through Mom's transition to her heavenly home. They were an answer to my prayers and are truly God's angels on earth.

Charlie Fusco