CASE STUDY

Our Resident’s Story

All her adult life, Violet loved spending time in her garden. She looked forward to retirement and the chance to take a Master Gardening course. She was just 55, however, when her doctor diagnosed her with EOAD. Her husband still worked full-time and he worried about her safety when he wasn’t at home. Violet’s family also longed to keep her connected to people and her flowers. When she first moved to Arden Courts, Violet rarely came out of her room and insisted, “I don’t belong with those people.”

Individual Pursuits

The staff at Arden Court’s patiently built a relationship with Violet while nurturing her love of plants. They filled her room with houseplants and gave her a gardening plot on the grounds which she maintained with the staff’s help. Many days, staff members provided her with bundles of fresh flowers for her to arrange.

Engagement Therapy

Violet eventually grew comfortable interacting with “those people” in small groups. She found friends who shared her interest in gardening. She could no longer write, but she liked to listen, especially to talks related to gardening topics. Her small group gave her a chance to express her opinions and share her gardening experiences in a safe and friendly environment.

Lifestyle Programming

As Violet’s disease progressed, she visited large group programming more often as a break from wandering. The music and laughter enticed her and she would stay for 45 minutes or more. Her circle of friends became wider and she enjoyed the safety and comfort of others.

Namaste Care

Violet eventually became unstable while walking and less able to interact with others. She transitioned to Namaste Care where programming is designed to be slower and sensory based. She enjoys looking out the window at the breeze blowing the branches while listening to soothing music. In addition, she finds pleasure in smelling fresh flowers and looking through a specially-made scrapbook of all her favorite flowers.

Characteristics of Early Onset Alzheimer’s Disease

Average age of occurrence:
Prior to age 65. Approximately 5 percent of the people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s develop symptoms before age 65, in their 30s, 40s or 50s. Approximately 13 percent of all EOAD cases are hereditary.

Average duration: 3 to 20 years

Brain areas affected: Linked to three genes: APP; PSEN 1; PSEN 2

Key symptoms: Symptoms manifest at work or home and are often ignored or attributed to another factor because of the person’s young age. Symptoms include impaired ability to learn, relearn, recall, plan, organize or sequence. The individual also may have an inability to identify and recognize. Personality and behavioral symptoms include anxiety and wandering.

Interested in information about Arden Courts?

Please contact the community directly or our general information line, 888-478-2410, which is available between the hours of 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. E.S.T. After hours you can also contact us at help@hcr-manorcare.com and a representative will be in touch the next day.

Early Onset Alzheimer’s Disease (EOAD)