

Your support of United Way helps people remain independent in their senior years.

John was in his late seventies and knew he was facing his last months in his struggle with cancer. His family members lived out of town and could only visit on weekends, which meant John spent most of his time battling his cancer by himself.

John's relatives considered placing him in a full time care facility, but they knew his independent and self-reliant spirit would make that a very difficult decision. A friendly neighbor suggested the family consider a United Way partner agency that could allow John to spend his remaining days right where he wanted to be—at his home.

In addition to his battle with cancer, John had other health problems (including an artificial voice box) that made it uncomfortable for him to function in social situations. This discomfort often made people think that John was withdrawn or uninterested in people who interacted with him. The nurse provided by the United Way partner agency made it a point to learn what football teams John liked, and after she held several one-sided conversations about sports, he began to warm up to his nurse. Over time, he started talking to her, and would talk to her when he would talk to no one else. He truly enjoyed her visits.

Several months later, John's continually declining health required he be admitted to the hospital. Shortly thereafter, John passed away.

After his death, John's family found his former nurse and told her she had made a tremendous difference in his final days. Because of her care, John was able to realize his last wish of spending his remaining time in his own home.

True events. Names and photos are changed to protect confidentiality.



IMPROVING EDUCATION, INCOME and HEALTH



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of the Mid-South**

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United Way of the Mid-South serves Crittenden, DeSoto, Fayette, Lauderdale, Shelby, Tate, Tipton & Tunica counties. This announcement made possible through the generosity of The Commercial Appeal.