



Fall 2017

Dear Friend,

“It’s time to get your affairs in order”

Imagine sitting on crinkled, white paper atop an uncomfortable, sterile cushion at your physician’s office, and hearing your doctor say, “There isn’t much more we can do”. Surely there’s another treatment...surgery...blood transfusion...experimental drug...isn’t there? You hear a pin drop in the hallway.

“There’s no handbook on dying. I’ve never walked this path before, I don’t know how I’m supposed to feel”

Bruce Miller walked out of that office a changed man. Life as he knew it, was over. Bruce struggled to come to terms with his prognosis. From the comfort of his porch rocker, he looked to the sky and asked, “What can I do”? Bruce felt an overwhelming answer shine from within...“Just Live”. And live he has!

“I’m learning patience. You can cry about it, or you can celebrate the things you can do”

Despite having a cancer that causes temporary bouts of paralysis in his legs, Bruce was determined to drive 1,300 miles to visit his sister-in-law in Gulfport, Mississippi. Bruce wanted to go deep sea fishing in the Gulf of Mexico; neither his wife, his hospice team, nor his diagnosis were going to stop him from going. Twelve hours later, they were on the highway, headed south. Bruce caught one “THIS BIG”!

“I’m taking control over what I can. Either you run it, or it runs you”

On the drive home, after getting a flat tire in six lanes of traffic in Memphis, Bruce learned of a curly coated retriever that needed rescue adoption in Cleveland. At 68 years old, living with terminal cancer, Bruce brought home a new furry family member, Indy. Bruce hopes that after he is gone, his wife Joyce will find companionship in their lovable furball. For now, they both find comfort and joy in their new pet.

“Nobody can answer why me. The fact is, it is me. What am I going to do about it”?

I think you’ll agree that Bruce Miller is one of a kind. Will you look death in the eye and find strength in it? Bruce is living the mission of hospice - taking control over one’s life- focusing on quality of life - celebrating each day as a gift.

“My expiration date expired months ago; yet here I am”

Patients like Bruce are rare. Too often, people come to hospice clinging to their final days. There aren’t trips left to take, or hobbies to share. In fact, one-third of our patients die in the first week of hospice care... never embracing the full benefits we offer. You have the power to fix this... WE NEED YOUR HELP!

It’s up to you...the clock is ticking.
Will you choose to help CareFirst today?



“If your only goal in life is to take your next breath, at any cost, that is your choice. I’d rather have quality of life”.

You can choose to bring dignity to hundreds of families living in the Southern Tier this winter. You can choose to educate our community on living life to its fullest- by making earlier referrals to hospice. You can choose to give from your heart, to help support one that is breaking.

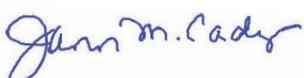
Your tax - deductible gift of \$50, \$100, or even \$250 will be the difference between a good death, with dignity, or a pain-filled day of crisis and tears. Please give your most generous contribution...when life is at stake, there’s no time to waste. Give your gift today, to help someone local tomorrow.

“People just don’t understand what CareFirst can offer. I chose hospice. They make me feel better”

Feeling an urgent call to serve, Bruce helps other local hospice patients who are struggling with their prognosis. “It rings your chime when they give you a death sentence. Friends and family have sympathy, they have empathy... yet they can’t understand. Until you listen to it yourself, it’s surreal. “If I can be a shoulder to cry on for just one person, then it’s worth it to me”. You’re worth it to us, Bruce.

Thank you for believing in our work.

With Gratitude,



Jann M. Cady, RN
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Imagine life with more Bruce’s, and less suffering.
Won’t YOU deserve quality of life?
It’s up to you...