



## *Jackson Friendly Home*

As the year has gone on, the Jackson Friendly Home (JFH) has continued to face the challenges of the pandemic and provide hope and stability to the senior women that need it most. This statement could not be truer for Ellen. In December of 2020, a couple knocked on the front door of the Home in hopes of touring the facility. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we were unable to accommodate the tour but were able to get more information from them in hopes we would be able to host them in the future.

We later learned that Ellen, who is 61 years old, was looking for a place to live after her and her significant other received devastating news. Ellen's partner was recently diagnosed with terminal cystic fibrosis and his life expectancy was less than a year. The couple have spent the last 30 years together living in the Concord area, and although officially never married, have changed their name to signify their union.

Ellen shared that they never officially married because she would lose her much needed health benefits. Without these benefits, she would not be able to afford the medication to treat her constant seizures and medical issues.

Following the diagnosis, Ellen and her partner decided to drive around Jackson looking for potential long term housing options for her. Alan is incredibly passionate about finding Ellen a place to not only live her life, but also a place that she can be surrounded by a support system, is safe, and can get the medical care she needs. Although Alan longs to continue living with Ellen, he can no longer care for her medical needs and his own. When they drove past the JFH, they decided to stop as Ellen recalled hearing of the home when she worked at another senior living facility many years ago. As time went on, the couple remained hopeful that a room would become available.

When a room became available in February, we reached out to the couple. Ellen and Alan hesitated, as they believed they would have more time together but ultimately decided to make the move by the end of the month. Although the couple acknowledged the move was necessary to ensure Ellen's needs could be met and she would have the support she needed after he passed, the couple experienced immense sadness that the day had come for them to live separately. Alan acknowledged that this was the best thing for Ellen and he wanted the best for the love of his life. When it was moving day, staff from the JFH assisted with moving all of Ellen's belongings as Alan was unable to assist due to weakness from his own medical diagnosis.

Despite this difficult decision, Alan is reassured knowing that Ellen is in the hands of the Jackson Friendly Home and he expressed that he was finally at peace knowing that Ellen would be safe.





Ellen has flourished since arriving to the Home and has not had any difficulty finding her support system, but she has struggled with the pandemic restrictions, as she has been unable to leave the facility to see Alan.

Now that restrictions are loosening, the facility is allowing visitors and residents are able to leave. The first resident to leave was Ellen, as Alan is no longer able to drive and is now under hospice care.

Your support of the mission of the Jackson Friendly Home allows for the safety and protection of women like Ellen. Because of you, the Jackson Friendly Home's impact is greater than ever. Your support over 2020 made it possible to transform the lives of countless senior women in this community. You have made it possible for each resident of the Home to flourish. We could not be more proud, or appreciative of our donors and partners. In just one year, you made possible:

- 45 women served
- 100% of women received medical, dental, telehealth, mental health, and/or podiatry services
- Over 550 life enrichment opportunities provided
- 266 volunteers
- Assisted 20 women with signing up for health insurance or other additional service networks
- \$130,000 invested in capital improvements
- 49,410 meals served

We have had a challenging year but also have remained resilient. The work of the Jackson Friendly Home is never finished, and we won't stop until every woman who needs a home and assistance can be served. Your influence and impact on the Home cannot be understated. I am deeply grateful for your investment in the women and hope you will join us in supporting our mission in 2021.

Together in service,

*Gabriella Tackett*

Gabriella Tackett, MA

Executive Director

