



Wexner Heritage Village TCU Patient Shares Positive Experience

Judy Swedlow had been in a coma, on a ventilator, for weeks.

When she came to, her muscles had atrophied to the point that she required two people to lift her and was considered, in her own words, "dead weight," requiring a two-person lift to get up and out of bed for even the smallest tasks.

Swedlow, who spent most of the month of April rehabilitating on the Ebner-Ruben Transitional Care Unit (TCU) at Wexner Heritage Village, was scheduled to take a trip to the Caribbean just prior to her life-changing hospitalization.

"I do not believe in coincidences anymore," she said. She went to the hospital due to a collapse from low blood sugar, only to have doctors discover a blood clot, which spiraled into a situation that nearly took her life. After her hospitalization, she came to TCU for rehabilitation. She was nursed back to health and exclaims that, on the unit, there is "great camaraderie; the staff work together brilliantly."

A total of 50 private rooms on the TCU are dedicated to caring for those needing short-term rehabilitation and therapy prior to returning to their own home environments. Therapy is provided in partnership with Genesis Rehabilitation Service, which now offers comprehensive therapy programming to those staying on the TCU and throughout the system of services. An occupational therapy apartment on the unit offers a full-scale replica of a home environment where patients can learn to accomplish basic tasks of daily living such as doing laundry, cooking, or getting in and out of the bathtub.

Judy Swedlow is one of the many people who now believes that a full recovery to independence is possible, thanks to the rehabilitative services offered through the Ebner-Ruben Transitional Care Unit at Wexner Heritage Village, offers those who have suffered illness or injury an option for recovery that allows them to return to independence.

As Wexner Heritage Village grows, other programs beyond the TCU have developed to fill service delivery gaps and offer a continuum that stretches from independence to end-of-life care. For instance, Creekside at the Village will now offer short-term and respite stays for older adults who are not quite ready to return to full independence after injury or illness, or for those whose family caregivers are looking for a short-term option while they are out of town.

“We are excited, because we know that people can come to our campus as independent as possible and can access the level of care that is appropriate for them,” said Terry Atkinson, Creekside’s Executive Director. “This is a vibrant place that meets the needs of our community on so many levels.”

Creekside at the Village is a unique hybrid of housing and health care options, offering the option of moving in with complete independence, with the option to provide full-scale assisted living services as needs emerge. Whether it is for permanent housing, or short-term stays, Creekside offers a proud partnership with the Ebner-Ruben Transitional Care Unit through the added choice it provides to those looking for options in recovery and supportive services on their journey back to independence.

Swedlow agreed, "I want people to know that this place isn't just about dying. People who come here rehabilitate; their lives are better for it, and they go home."

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