

A Daughter's Gratitude

Adapted from an actual letter received by Masonic Outreach

Dear Masonic Outreach Services Staff:

Several years ago, my mom received a Christmas letter from the grand master. In the letter, he mentioned Masonic Outreach. I had been raised in a Masonic environment, but I had never heard of it. I couldn't dial the phone fast enough to find out what it was.

My mom was 88 years old. She had been living in a retirement home since my dad died, doing fine – until Social Security discovered they had made a mistake in calculating her income. She lost almost all of her savings, and her benefits were halved. We tried moving her in with us, but we already had three generations living under our roof. We just couldn't manage a fourth.

And then we received the letter from the grand master. As the famous New York Sun article proclaimed: Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! We submitted an application to Masonic Outreach. That's how we met David, who became my mom's care manager. There was a real special bond between David and my mom. He became like family.

David was instrumental in getting my mom into a great senior community that she loved; he knew she was a special person, and found the perfect place for her. He also made sure she could get assisted living care there if she ever needed it. Thank God, because as the next year and a half unfolded, she did. She was put on oxygen. She needed help dressing. She could no longer use her walker, and had to be moved from place to place in a wheelchair. But did she still have quality of life? Oh yes she did!

Thanks to Masonic Outreach, she had a group of friends who played games and ate together. Her family, including her grandchildren and great grandchildren, stopped by daily to spend time with her. The workers at the apartment checked on her 24 hours a day.

Every time I contacted David with a new request for Masonic Outreach he would say, Don't worry, we will take care of it. And you did.

My mom lived to be 96 and a half years old. Thanks to Masonic Outreach, she lived a rich life right up until the end. Thank you again so very, very much. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. But sometimes he comes to you in the form of other people.

Sincerely,
Donna Stanley

**Client name has been omitted to protect privacy.*

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