

Acting Like Family

A sad development, and one that is not uncommon in the centers of Life Care and Century Park and in the work of Life Care at Home, is the prospect of facing the end of life with no family for support.

For those individuals, our associates become their family, figuratively and practically.

An example is Tracey Edwards, a staff member at Life Care Center of Centerville. She provided a diabetic birthday cake and gifts to a resident with no family.

What does that mean to a person in a frail and infirm position? Such an action offers:

- Reassurance that he or she matters to someone.
- A feeling of belonging in a community of relationships.
- Encouragement to meet each new day.
- A sense of love, and its attendant comfort.

And in case you think Edwards acted out of some professional obligation, then you don't know her heart. At Christmas, she assisted in providing an entire family in Centerville with food, gifts and money.

That's how brothers and sisters respond to one another. At least, that's how Tracey Edwards does.

--Beecher Hunter