



Marilyn Shuman

Like so many others, Marilyn Shuman first discovered Pines of Sarasota when a loved one needed care. Marilyn's husband Irving was in the hospital recovering from an injury sustained in a fall. He was ready to move to a rehab facility and it was up to Marilyn to determine where he would go. The hospital gave her a long list of options and wanted a quick answer. It was a daunting task. She was unfamiliar with most of the facilities on the list and was unsure about the few she recognized.

Irv's medical needs complicated the decision. He had been battling Multiple Myeloma for many years and the rehab would need to facilitate the continuation of his cancer treatments as well as help him get back on his feet.

When someone at the hospital recommended Pines of Sarasota, Marilyn visited the campus and liked what she saw. Fortunately, Pines was able and willing to care for Irv. In February 2012, Irv and Marilyn became part of the Pines family.

Marilyn could not have been happier with her decision. "I was with him every day and saw for myself the care and attention he was getting," she said. "It was the energy and responsiveness of the staff that impressed me." She was particularly grateful for all the staff did to afford Irv dignity. "Illness and infirmity can be dehumanizing," she shared. "The staff did everything in their power to ensure his dignity was preserved. It was their attitude that made all the difference."

After two months of rehab at Pines, Irv recovered from his injury and went home, but the cancer had continued to undermine his health and he died 10 days later. Marilyn never forgot the care he received and, as a spouse, how comfortable and welcome Pines had made her feel. Pines had become part of her life and she wanted to continue to be part of Pines' life. She began volunteering, spending time with residents and taking them for walks. Eventually, she joined Pines of Sarasota Foundation's Wit and Wisdom of Aging Luncheon committee, co-chairing the event twice, and served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees from 2014 through 2020.

If you ask Marilyn Shuman about Pines of Sarasota and her support of Pines Foundation, she will tell you about professional excellence, a dedicated and devoted staff, a campus located in the heart of our community, and a commitment to residents even when they outlive their resources. But it all comes back to her beloved Irv and the knowledge that Pines was there for him, with skill and compassion, when he needed care.