

friend of Still Waters

The Baker Family

At the age of 78, Kitty Baker became an Alzheimer's statistic. Nearly 44 million people have Alzheimer's or a related dementia. Alzheimer's is the only disease among the 10 leading causes of death that cannot be cured, prevented, or slowed. Jim, Kitty's husband, and her family were hoping that Kitty would not have to experience the same fate as her two older sisters. But that was not to be.

Kitty became concerned about her cognitive abilities. She couldn't remember what day or month it was or what she was going to do that day. Her judgment declined and she became more confused. Once she was diagnosed, her family also became a statistic. There are 15.9 million family caregivers in the United States.

Kitty's progression with Alzheimer's has been slow. At first, she compensated well. She took medication and was diligent about keeping a routine, including walking every day. She continued to enjoy her many activities. A calendar helped. Her family and friends kept her active.

Piece by piece, Kitty lost her ability to do the things she enjoyed. She couldn't drive, play bridge, play the piano, or paint. She could no longer serve on committees, meet friends for lunch, grocery shop or cook. She stopped attending church.



Christmas party at Still Waters

Friend of Still Waters

At the point when Kitty could no longer be left alone, her family began looking for a facility or program that would meet her needs. They wanted a place where the staff was trained about Alzheimer's disease. They wanted a faith-based environment where Kitty could find the social stimulation that she so enjoyed, especially music. Kathy, Kitty's daughter was instrumental in steering the family to Still Waters Adult Day Center. At the urging of the three Baker children, Kathy, Debby, and Bill, Jim enrolled Kitty for a couple of half days a week. Eventually this grew to full time care.



February 11, 1950



Debby and her husband Dan moved back to Indianapolis from Minnesota to help with Kitty's care. Debby became a Still Waters' volunteer, helping serve lunch several times a month. Kathy continues to take Kitty to her weekly beauty shop appointments and other appointments. Jim faithfully looks after Kitty's needs in their home. Because of the family's devotion to Kitty and the care she receives at Still Waters, Kitty has been able to remain in her home.

Kitty no longer knows her husband Jim, her children, grandchildren, or other family members. Yet, they still see glimpses of the woman they love. They trust that God will continue to look after Kitty and give them the strength and patience to care for her.