

Guest Story

When the Roles are Reversed

Many declines are gradual. For Nick, life changed dramatically one day nearly 3 years ago. A freak canoe accident in July 2016 left Nick, the father of four young children, with a closed head traumatic brain injury. Nick was in a coma for several months and, for a time after he regained consciousness, his injury left him severely depressed and acting out in violent ways.



Nick's accident also caused a huge disruption in the lives of his family. Parents Kristy and Don stepped in to provide care for Nick once he was released from the hospital. Despite their efforts, Nick needed extensive neurological rehabilitation and he spent the next year at a specialized hospital in Illinois where he made slow but significant progress to regain some of what the accident took away.

Nick still requires 24-hour care at the loving and capable hands of Kristy and Don. Although Nick is nearly blind and has very limited verbal skills, he listens and understands everything. More importantly, his disposition has completely changed. Kristy says that Nick is a complete joy to have around. "He's the most loving guy you will ever meet," she says.

As Nick's progress improved, Kristy and Don saw the need for him to get out into the community where he could make new friends and find purpose for his life. That quest led them to Still Waters. "They welcomed him with open arms!" says Kristy. "He enjoys every minute he's there," she adds.

"We were empty nesters, taking it easy and enjoying our grandchildren," says Kristy. "This has been a big change. We almost lost Nick, but he fought back. We wouldn't dream of having him anywhere but with us. With the help of Still Waters, we are all doing fine."