

THE WILLOWS AT WORCESTER
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAME COMMUNITY, DIFFERENT SPACES

Worcester, MA – October 18, 2011 – Cecily and Peter Marshall lived in West Boylston, MA for fifty years before moving to The Willows at Worcester, a retirement community for active adults, in December 2009.

“2008’s ice storm, that’s why we moved,” said Mrs. Marshall with a chuckle. “Also, a friend of ours moved here and it seemed like the right thing to do at the right time in our lives.”

Then, in July of 2010, Mr. Marshall, who has Alzheimer’s disease, suffered a severe stroke.

“It happened on Cape Cod which is where we spend our summers. I called to see if there was a room available at The Health Center and fortunately for us, there was just one and Peter would be able to move in upon our return.”

Mr. Marshall’s new room would be in a nearby rest home not far from The Willows. In fact, The Health Center is on the same campus as The Willows, and offers the supportive care typically offered in assisted living, coupled with a wide range of clinical and nursing care services. The

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Center's spacious and intimate neighborhood-like setting has nearby dining, gathering spaces, and a landscaped outdoor sitting area, like The Willows.

Mrs. Marshall explained, "This transition really worked out for us because I could stay in our new apartment home and Peter could move into a private room at The Health Center and be given the care he needed as someone with Alzheimer's."

The Marshall's four children were understandably upset when their father's health declined but knowing their parents remained together under one roof was reassuring, especially with them living away from the area and unable to visit as frequently as they'd like.

Mrs. Marshall credits the staff for helping the couple with a smooth transition which has allowed for both of them to remain greatly involved in each other's daily lives. And there's peace of mind for Mrs. Marshall, who can visit anytime, regardless of weather or darkness.

"They do an amazing job over at The Health Center," said Mrs. Marshall. "Randi, the activities aide, thinks of creative things to do with the residents and has a lot of patience."

Each day Mrs. Marshall goes to see Mr. Marshall, who is wheelchair bound, and spends part of the day with him. The two will share a meal, go out and get ice cream or just go for a drive.

"We enjoy The Willows so much," said Mrs. Marshall. "There's such a sense of community here, with grandchildren running around and different voices coming from everywhere."

Mrs. Marshall remains independent too, attending speaking engagements to promote her memoir of survival *Happy Life Blues*, outings with friends in the Worcester area, and going to many of her fifteen grandchildren's sports, music and dance events.

“When I come home, I feel like I’m coming back to such a happy place...all these energetic people, the bright décor. Everything is so welcoming.”

Although separated by walls, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall are able to remain active in their own tight-knit community, which allows Mr. Marshall to receive the care he needs, and Mrs. Marshall the independence she very much enjoys.

To learn more or purchase a copy of *Happy Life Blues*, go to <http://www.amazon.com/Happy-Life-Blues-Memoir-Survival/dp/0979059879>.

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