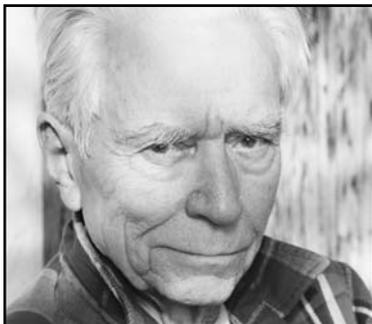


GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED



Sometimes a stranger is an angel in disguise. That's kind of the way Ed feels about Mabel, his volunteer from Compassionate Care a United Way-funded program.

In January 2008, Ed lost his beloved wife and partner of fifty-six years. They fell in love as kids and that deep love was always there – until, suddenly – she was gone. It wasn't supposed to be that way. Ed was the one diagnosed with an incurable pulmonary disease. The doctors had told him to get his affairs in order. They gave him very little time.

Losing his wife was a terrible blow

to a man and his family who were extremely active – sailing, swimming, skiing around the country. There was the farm to take care of, too – a 100 acre breeding and training farm for thoroughbred race horses. They'd built and run their farm together. Now Ed's life seemed like nothing but losses.

Then a friend told his daughter about Compassionate Care. Exhausted and overwhelmed with the care of her dad and the farm, she welcomed the break Compassionate Care could give. When Mabel arrived in July 2008, she found a withdrawn, depressed man who'd resigned from life.

Mabel started bringing dinner and gave Ed a chance to talk about his wife. Before long, they were at work on a book that will serve as a family memorial to his wife. Along the way there have been tears and stories and lots of memories. Ed gained a purpose – and a "best friend." Because of Compassionate Care, Ed's quality of life is extended. He's back in charge.

**When we all work together, we can make change happen.
Together, when we LIVE UNITED, we can make a real difference.**

To give contact United Way of Ontario County, Inc. 585.394.6550
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