



We had the privilege to speak to Renee Meese, daughter of Daniel Schultz. Daniel received hospice care at our Martin-Linsin Residence in August.

Renee and her family were familiar with hospice services because their mother had home care hospice. They knew with Daniel's end stage dementia that hospice was the next step. Renee reached out to Hospice of Orleans to get the process going for placement.

"Julia Alt helped us in getting the information she needed for placement. The previous nursing home wasn't exactly helpful on their part. Julia was consistent in her positive and cheery attitude. She was such a breath of fresh air compared to all the institutions I have dealt

with during my father's health journey. The way I felt heard about my father's condition was comforting. Julia saved my dad from dying in a cold and awful place."

It was not long before Daniel was transported to the Martin-Linsin Residence. Renee described her first impression of the facility.

"When I walked in through the doors at the Martin-Linsin Residence I cried. It was such a beautiful facility and it was clean and bright. The place where my father was arriving from was an abusive, neglectful and dirty nursing home. I had fought hard to get him out of that terrible place so when he was welcomed into Martin-Linsin I was so relieved at how it looked and felt. Stacey one of the nurses at Martin-Linsin met us at the entry. She was so warm and wonderful to my father and to myself. I felt this huge weight lift off my shoulders. I could breathe again knowing my father would be well taken care of in this beautiful hospice."

Renee not only had peace of mind when getting her father placed at the Martin-Linsin Residence, but also with how attentive the staff were upon Daniel's arrival.

"Upon arrival, Stacey a Martin-Linsin nurse, met us. She did my father's intake and she was awesome. She handled my father with a gentleness I had not seen before. She is smart and intuitive with her care. All the nurses and staff are top shelf!"



“They all have this calming demeanor and knowledgeable way they approach the hospice patients and their families. I was so impressed with all the little touches I saw. Also, when we arrived, I met with Heather Rowley who did our intake forms. She is another wonderful person who was so calm and peaceful. She was mindful of us and our feelings. She took her time with us, even though it was at the end of her day. Sometimes you can feel rushed at other places in that sort of a situation but not here. Thank you to Heather for having the patience to understand that we just

came out of a battle trying to get my dad out of an awful nursing home. She was kind and helpful while we were filling out forms and signing papers. Pastor Randy, was amazing and visited us every day. He was so kind and took time to spend with us and didn’t rush off right away. What an amazing man with such a great servant’s heart. I felt like my dad was rescued by Martin-Linsin and everyone there played a part.”

“The inside facility is really peaceful and beautiful. It makes you feel like you are at your own home. The bedding my father had on his bed was so comfortable and clean. I loved the way it felt when I walked into Martin-Linsin. I never felt that heaviness once we arrived. There are so many peaceful and beautiful areas to step out of your loved ones room to catch a breath, collect your thoughts or say a prayer. I thought the memory garden area was really such a nice touch. Most importantly, when your heart is so heavy at the thought of losing someone you love, what a simple blessing it is to be able to walk in and see a smile every day knowing that they understand what you are going through. Also, just having peace of mind knowing that your family member is getting the best of care that there is. I was grateful for the experience to be able to have my father in such a wonderful place.”

Renee witnessed a positive change in her father once he was settled at the Martin-Linsin Residence.

“He just seemed to be at peace right away. I think he knew that he was in a really good place and that everybody would take good care of him.”

“My father was able to tell me that he knew his body was changing and I believe that was his way of telling me that he knew he was dying. He had a really good day after being settled at Martin-Linsin. It was his last rally. He appreciated the nurses and the volunteers. He was chatty and seemed pleasant. The staff was amazing with him. Whenever they needed to adjust him into different positions, they always made sure he had his dignity. They would softly share with him what they were going to do before they proceeded with him. I just thought that was just so kind. They weren’t rough or abrupt with him at all. They handled him so tenderly, like it was their father or grandfather.

It made me emotional at times to see him get such sweet care. It was like he was finally seeing that appreciation for how hard he had worked his whole life, and that these wonderful people were there helping him to walk home.”

One of Renee’s favorite memories was when her father was asked about his favorite drink. “He managed to whisper Pepsi and wouldn’t you know it, not five minutes later we had an ice cold glass of soda in our hands for him which he happily and promptly emptied.”

“The staff all seemed like they wanted to be there. You know how sometimes you can sense people hate their jobs? I didn’t get this sense at all. I felt like the entire staff that I came into contact with was just as amazing as the last person. They were fun and kind and helpful. I cannot say enough good things about everyone at Martin-Linsin.”

We asked Renee what she would say to other families who may be on the fence about choosing hospice care for their loved one.

“Don’t be afraid of Hospice. I know so many people think it’s only really for the few last days of life but it is also for people who are in their last six months of life. It is a warm, loving environment and I only wish that I have been able to have gotten my father there sooner. I have come across many people who have the misconception that hospice hurries the end of life. That is not true. Hospice and especially the Martin-Linsin Residence was able to allow my father to die peacefully without pain and without being afraid. He sensed he was safe and cared for and I felt the same. The Martin-Linsin Residence was not a cold institutional type place like most hospitals and nursing homes. If you can do one thing for your loved one, bring them to this hospice. You won’t regret it. Thank you to all the Martin-Linsin Residence staff for helping to walk my dad home.”