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Over two decades of providing services to help older people remain safely in their own homes and community for as long as they choose through four unique programs:

Community Caregiving:
A unique memory loss program

Community Case Management:
Assistance for frail and isolated seniors

Open Door:
For developmentally disabled older adults

Senior Center:
Nutritional hot lunches, educational and social programs

November 12, 2009

Dear Friends:

I am a sort-of senior myself, still in that gray area where you get a discount at the movie houses but not a senior Metrocard. So when I think of seniors and their stories, I am more likely to think of my father than myself.

When my Dad was in the early stages of memory loss, I enrolled him in a day program near his home. I stayed with him the first day and watched him try to play shuffleboard and listen to live piano music. The music definitely went over better than the shuffleboard. It was a little like taking my daughters to their first day of nursery school. I should have known....

My Dad continued to go once a week and I was there every one of those afternoons to meet his bus. Until the day he came home and told me he was not going back. As he explained it, "It didn't meet my expectations."

My Dad was never in a writing program like the one featured here. If he had had more opportunity to express himself as an adult, he might have continued going out once a week to spend time with other older adults. He might have held on to his memories by telling them again, just as he had told them to me, over and over, throughout the years we had together.

My Dad had his stories, as all of us have stories. We tell our stories to family and friends, and we use them to explain our lives, to recapture our lives, and maybe even to reinvent ourselves by the things we choose to say or not say, the things we highlight and the things we leave behind.

I am so very pleased that Riverstone has been able to offer programs that allow seniors, with or without memory loss, to express their lives and their individuality. I am delighted by the results of their efforts, especially their writing and their artwork.

If you ever had any questions about what your support of Riverstone means to the thousands of seniors who have passed through our doors, here are some answers. Take a look. I think you will be amazed. And delighted.

To our seniors and supporters, I hope you are proud of what you have accomplished, and on behalf of the Riverstone Board of Directors, I thank you all. And I honor your stories.

Sincerely,



Nan Beer
President