

EVERYONE HAS A REASON TO END ALZHEIMER'S.



Our families' journey with Alzheimer's disease began several generations ago. As a child, Grandma Liz (Elizabeth Ives) remembered seeing her grandmother scolding her grandfather when he did "something foolish," then Grandpa would cry and be sent off to another room. Of course, in those early days elderly folks were considered "senile" or "suffering from old age". We've seen pictures of Grandpa and recognize the blank look in his eyes which so often accompanies victims of Alzheimer disease. Elizabeth's generation included several of her nine siblings being affected in the same way. One of her brothers was diagnosed in his late 50's, the others were into their late 60's and 70's before we heard the word Alzheimer's.

Elizabeth entered St Anne's in 1989, after the family realized it was no longer safe for her to stay in her home. She lived there until she passed away in 1996, at the age of 84. She was always a very mild-mannered woman who spent her entire adult life caring for her family. As the disease progressed, her personality changed somewhat but she was always the woman we knew — loving, calm and soft-spoken.

Bette's regression to her current state at Callista Court Memory Care Unit began very gradually. Her sisters, because of their experience with their mother, probably recognized some signs even before her immediate family did. There were the familiar lost items, repeat questions and general confusion in this woman who had known a very active, full life. She raised nine children, had been employed as an assistant to an executive, was active in her church, loved to dance and had enjoyed all life had to offer. She loved to sing and could recite songs she learned at church as well as many songs by Charlie Pride and the Oakridge Boys (two of her favorites). Bette started becoming

confused during conversations with family and friends and would rely on Dave to finish sentences for her. She started to become paranoid, thinking the bank was stealing her money so she had to switch banks. The family decided to give Dave and Bette an early Christmas present that year and all chipped in to send them to Mt. Rushmore for one last vacation together before the disease took over all of her memory. Bette really wanted to see "the men on the mountain". They had two of the older grandchildren with them to help take care of her and to share the driving. They had a wonderful time. The family was still somewhat in denial of what was happening to Bette. We tried getting in-home health services for her because she wasn't taking care of herself but she didn't like having a stranger coming in and helping her so we had to stop the service. She became very frustrated and that frustration seemed to be aimed at her husband, Dave, who became the focus of her anger. His responsibilities in caring for her became too much even for him, as devoted as he was to being her caregiver. The official diagnosis came in 2011 and Callista became her home in October, 2012. It was a very difficult decision for Dave and the family to make. He has continued to be a faithful part of her "new" home, visiting several times a week, usually on Sundays to take her to church. They can often be seen strolling down the hallways hand in hand, still in love after nearly 63 years of marriage, nine children, 23 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren.

The Ives-Guenther families began participating in the Winona Memory Walk in 1998 with one walker. We have continued to grow in number, usually having 20 to 30 walkers covering four generations ranging from several months to over 80 years old. As a family, we know how devastating this disease is and we hope to raise awareness as well as funds to combat Alzheimer's.

Join the Ives-Guenther Families at the
2014 Winona Walk to End Alzheimer's
Saturday, September 27 - Jaycee Shelter
 9:00 AM Registration - 10:00 AM Opening Ceremony



Form a Team, Be a Sponsor, or Make a Donation
507.289.3950 | alz.org/walk

