

# The Right Care, at the Right Time, in the Right Place

**O**n Feb. 19, 2010, Bob and Anne Ream celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary by singing “old standards” and sharing cake decorated with yellow roses—the couple’s favorite flower. They were joined by family, friends and the caring staff at The Thomas P. Perciak Family Residential Hospice of Southwest General.

Bob passed on a few weeks later after a yearlong battle with cancer.

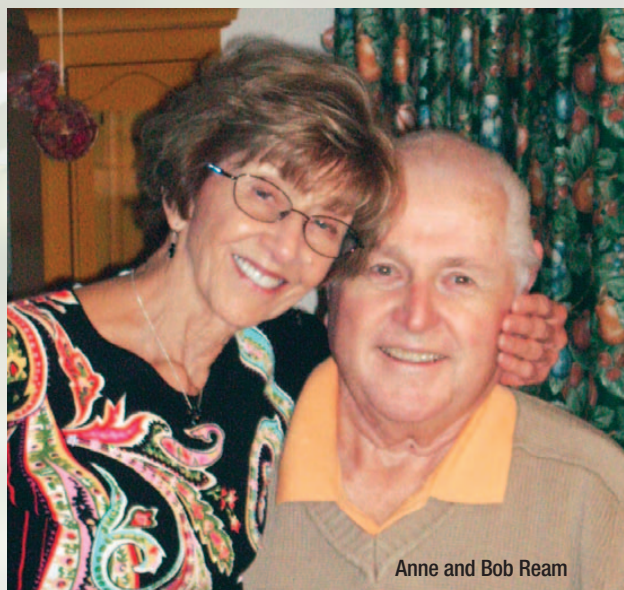
“It broke my heart that Bob wasn’t able to spend his last days at home, but I wasn’t able to provide the care he required,” said Anne. “Moving him into the hospice center gave me the chance to spend his last days at his side without having to worry about doing anything else besides sharing time with him. The hospice staff was just wonderful, and they took care of everything we needed.”

After Bob experienced a fall at the couple’s Westlake home, Anne realized that she wouldn’t be able to care for him there any longer. She needed to find a place where he would be comfortable and happy. Bob and Anne’s sons, Tom and Paul, visited The Thomas P. Perciak Family Residential Hospice in Strongsville and immediately called their mother, announcing that they had found an “incredible place.”

“I could hear a harpist playing over the phone,” said Anne. “The best part is that I would be able to live there with Bob, which was a condition I insisted upon.”

The boys were right. They had found the perfect place.

Bob spent most of his last days visiting with friends in the Great Room, where a comforting fireplace occasionally burned. Student musicians from Baldwin-Wallace came in to entertain the residents. One of them went out of the way to learn the couple’s song, “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” on his cello.



Anne and Bob Ream

“The facility is wonderful, but the people make the place,” said Anne. “The staff and the volunteers are an incredible bunch of people. They are there to help with whatever you need. Most of the volunteers are there because they went through what I did, and they returned to give something back.”

In 2009, nearly 500 people were cared for with dignity through Southwest General’s Hospice Service.

“Bob’s battle with cancer was the most horrible experience I could ever imagine going through,” said Anne. “But it was so comforting to know that the people working in Southwest General’s Hospice Services understand what you’re going through and are there to help you. You could tell that this isn’t just a job for them. It is a calling.” ■

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(This site also is the location of The Thomas P. Perciak Family Residential Hospice)