



Every
moment
matters

A journey of courage, compassion — and home

At just 22 years of age, Katy faced challenges most could hardly imagine.

Diagnosed with Lupus, she endured debilitating symptoms while ongoing treatments became essential to sustain her life. As if these struggles weren't enough, her life was uprooted when Hurricane Helene devastated her family's mountain community, leaving their home in ruins and local hospitals without power or water. Forced to relocate nearly two hours away, Katy longed for the familiarity and comfort of home.

In this distant hospital, Katy met Meagan, a compassionate Mountain Valley hospice nurse, whose dedication would make a profound difference. Seeing Katy's fragile condition and understanding her deep wish to feel at home, Meagan gently asked, "Where is the one place you want to be right now?" With tears, Katy answered, "Back at home ... but that doesn't exist anymore." She yearned for a place that didn't feel like a hospital, where she could spend her final moments outdoors.

Meagan, moved by Katy's wish, drove to the Joan & Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson. There, she used a video call to show Katy's mother the warm, home-like setting surrounded by nature. "Would this feel like home to her?" Meagan asked. With a grateful heart, her mother answered, "Yes."

Arrangements were made swiftly. Katy, her mother, and her younger brother arrived at Woltz Hospice Home where she requested to sit outside with her family on the screened-in porch. From 6:00 in the evening until 3:00 in the morning, they shared a beautiful evening, holding each other, savoring the fresh autumn air, and creating memories of quiet peace. When Katy was ready, she asked to go to her room. As she nestled into bed, she looked lovingly at her family, smiled, and softly whispered, "I had the best time, and I love you so much." Shortly after, Katy passed away, having experienced a final evening of warmth, family, and love. In her final hours, she was given a priceless gift, a peaceful farewell in a place that felt like home.

As you gather with your loved ones this holiday season, we invite you to help us bring comfort and peace to families in need like Katy's. By supporting the vital work of Mountain Valley, you make it possible for us to provide compassionate care to those facing life's most difficult moments.

Blessings to you and your family. Thank you for helping us honor families with dignity, warmth, and hope when it's needed most.

Leigh Anne Groves
SVP of Philanthropy



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