

# Annual Holiday Visits Perfect Time for Discussing Future Long Term Care Plans: *Thoughtful Discussions Bring Families Closer*

With the holidays upon us, you may be asking how it is possible that another year has gone by. The holiday season is often a time when parents enjoy visits from their adult children and family members living far away.

These visits can be a perfect time for children to connect with their parents and begin to have discussions about their future long term care plans. Often times, these conversations can bring families closer together and give them peace of mind as they explore options and plan thoughtfully.

This was true of Jerry and Fay Schultz, who are the parents of three grown daughters. Jerry and Fay always assumed they would need some kind of supportive care in the future because of their families' medical histories. At the same time, they knew that they wanted a secure plan that would allow them to remain in their own home.

So, Jerry and Fay joined SmartLife VIA Willow Valley, a true Lifecare at Home program offered in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. It is an innovative, membership-based plan that provides the security of a continuing care senior living community, but in the member's own home. SmartLife enables seniors to continue their current lifestyle in their home, with the security of knowing they are covered if additional care is ever needed. Families' assets are better protected with the program's Lifecare coverage because fees are not increased due to a member's need for an increased level of care. The Shultzes had experience with skyrocketing costs of private pay care with a loved one, and saw firsthand how quickly it can deplete a family's assets.

Jerry and Fay say their family is happy with their decision to become SmartLife members. As Jerry explains, "Even though our daughters are 49, 50, and 55, they are so glad there's a professional who knows what steps to take if we need to be taken care of."

SmartLife utilizes Lifecare Coordinators who advocate for the program's members and arrange for care when needed. Necessary care can take place in the member's home or at Willow Valley Communities. An emergency response system is available, and transportation and meals can also be provided during a short term illness. Spouses or other family members do not have to arrange for these often stressful tasks; SmartLife coordinates everything having to do with arranging care. This was very important to the Shultzes, both for themselves, as well as for their daughters. Jerry explained, "Should I need care, SmartLife will take care of me; not my wife." They also appreciate that the care provided by SmartLife is unlimited in duration.

As part of the Willow Valley Communities family, SmartLife continues the standard of excellence that Willow Valley has been providing to seniors for over 34 years. The Shultzes have lived in Willow Street their entire lives, and were well aware of this reputation. "There is no question about the quality of care Willow Valley Communities provides. That's really why we are in this program," they agreed.



**Jerry and Fay Schultz share the path they chose.**

Their SmartLife membership also offers the Shultzes access to many of Willow Valley Communities' wellness programs and social activities. Fay is delighted about this. "There is really nothing that compares to the activities they have and the friendliness of the people."

Jerry summarizes the thought process he and his wife journeyed: "Only when something happens do you realize you're not going to live forever, so you better get fixed up with whatever you need to do. When SmartLife came, it was the answer. We knew we were going to join SmartLife and stay in our home."

For more information on how SmartLife VIA Willow Valley can provide future security and peace of mind for you and your family, get the facts at an upcoming information session: January 10 at 2pm at the Manheim Township Library or January 15 at 2pm at the Double Tree Resort.

Visit [SmartLife.org/Attend](https://www.smartlife.org/Attend) to learn more.