

## Interview with Current IMH Hospice Patient, Judi Laberdia



### **You have been on Iroquois Memorial Hospice for over 3 years?**

Yes, and it kind of blows my mind because I was told I would not be here now if I did not have a very involved surgery that was recommended.

### **Why did you look into Iroquois Memorial Hospice?**

For two reasons. First, one of my best friends told me they had given many months of amazing care to her husband as well as to her as his caregiver. Second, after 5 major surgeries I was done with surgeries and I wanted to be comfortable and live the best quality of life in the time I had left.

### **People sometimes stay away from hospice because they think they will receive second rate medical care. What has been your experience?**

Well, I did have incredible doctors and medical care with my 5 surgeries. And I am here to tell you that Iroquois Memorial Hospice provided the same quality of care - outstanding!

### **Can you explain?**

The Iroquois Memorial Hospice RNs are available 24/7 with the goal of keeping me comfortable as their top priority. And the Iroquois Memorial Hospice MD is very good at figuring out the best medications for the nurses to give me. This combination means that I have excellent pain control.

### **Are members of the hospice team other than the RN's visiting or seeing you?**

Yes and they are amazing. The CNAs even help clean the house, do laundry, and make my bed when I need that help. The hospice social worker has helped me through some rough times and even picked up groceries for me a couple of times. The hospice chaplain gives me spiritual support, talks through my problems with me, and prays with me because prayer is a very important part of my relationship with God.

### **Are you having to pay for the medications, your wheelchair, oxygen, other equipment, or hospice care in any way?**

Absolutely not. And you cannot believe what a blessing that is to me!

### **What would you say to someone thinking of accepting hospice care only in their last few days or maybe never?**

Well, I would ask them "What in the world are you thinking?". The quality of my life is so much better with Iroquois Memorial Hospice. And to tell you the truth, I am convinced that I am still alive after these 3 years because of the wonderful care from Iroquois Memorial Hospice!