

Alexander Widdifield

Partner in Care

Submitted by Stephanie Grayson

Hello, I'm Lisa Burden, Chief Patient Services Officer at Ontario Health atHome. I'm so pleased to have the opportunity to share this next story of a dedicated grandson.

Our second Partner in Care story was submitted by care coordinator, Stephanie Grayson. You may recall Stephanie's name from one of our earlier stories. Thank you, Stephanie, for taking the time to recognize more than one deserving caregiver.

Alex moved in with his grandmother, Marion, nearly seven years ago to care for her when she was struggling without support. Her goal was, and continues to be, to remain in the community with supports for as long as possible. Honouring this, her goal is now Alex's goal.

These goals continue to be a top priority for him. Alex has sacrificed a lot of himself to support his grandmother at the expense of jobs, relationships and his health. He has found himself in a situation with limited support, thrusting this young man into responsibilities that have required him to delay his own priorities for the love of his nanny, as he sweetly refers to her. He does not complain. He is selfless. His grandmother's wellbeing is always of paramount importance.


Alex values the relationships he has built with the health care team to ensure that his grandmother has the best care when needed. He views all those supporting his nanny as part of the team, and has developed relationships with his pharmacy, doctors, PSWs and care coordinator, with an understanding that open communication and collaboration will yield the best care for his grandmother. His attentiveness means that he's tracking and reporting on every change to ensure her needs are met.

As a care coordinator, Stephanie appreciates this collaborative approach and working together with Alex whether it is finding creative solutions in difficult times or simply reassuring him that he has made good decisions in the best interest of his grandmother.

He motivates and pushes Marion to keep up with her exercises and encourages her to maintain as much mobility as possible, even timing her transfers and setting goals. You can see Alex radiate with pride when she, at times grudgingly, obliges.

Alex has experienced a lifetime of adversity, yet he continues to persevere with resilience, empathy and compassion with his grandmother's autonomy and dignity at the forefront.

In speaking with Alex, he reflected "its full circle. She took care of me, now its my turn."



Care Coordinator, Stephanie shared how amazing it has been for her to watch and see Marion's progress thanks to Alex's encouragement, remarking "This young man has gone over and above as a caregiver for many years. He deserves to be formally recognized for his efforts."