

Heroes in the Home Caregiver Recognition Award 2018

Ward Family

Linda, Debbie, Sandra, George, Ricky, Elana and Brendan

The Ward family is a very special group of individuals who provided love, care and support to their beloved mother, Willena. Together, they did everything in their power to honour their Mom's request to never be placed in a long-term care home. For three heart-wrenching years, the seven Ward siblings all played a role in caring for Willena.

When their father passed away, Willena lived with one of her sons for many years. When she began experiencing the onset of dementia and her condition began to get worse, Willena eventually became bedridden and required 24/7 care. Her seven children – all with their unique personalities – took turns staying with their Mom, providing everything she needed to be comfortable and safe at home.

During the final months, the family received assistance from Willena's family doctor and the home and community care team. They considered the additional assistance to be a blessing. The family was so grateful to the care teams for the assistance they provided to help them and their Mom on her final journey ensuring peace and tranquility, allowing her to remain at home. Each brother and sister had their own way of making their Mom feel special, loved and comforted every hour of every day.

This family went to great lengths to do everything possible to ensure their Mother could live a full life and live out her final days at home with dignity and respect. Willena passed away in April of 2017 in the comfort and peace of her own home, surrounded by her family who took the most comfort knowing Willena went in peace, at home just as she wished. We are pleased to recognize Linda, Debbie, Sandra, George, Ricky, Elana and Brenda for their devotion as caregivers – you are all Heroes in the Home!



**Nominated by
Sandra Ward**