

A Nursing Home May Not Be the Only Option!



“My best friend is home.” When Bernie had to go into a nursing home after his stroke, his wife Micki of 50+ years always hoped he would be able to come back home to live with her. Four years later, that hope was almost gone. When Jen McMahon of the I Choose Home NJ program met Bernie and Micki at the nursing home one Saturday morning and told them that he may be able to go back home with Medicaid supports, Micki says “it was like an angel came down from the sky. We didn’t know that option even existed.” For nearly two years, the I Choose Home NJ team - including Jen and her colleague Kathleen Filippone - advocated strongly for Bernie’s right to move out and connected him to every possible Medicaid service he would need to be safe and comfortable in the community. Finally, this September, Bernie came home to Micki. They are thrilled. Bernie now receives in-home care from trusted home health aides. Of his care, Micki observes that “he gets a lot more attention here than in the nursing home because the aide is only attending to him.” Of Bernie’s coming back home, Micki says, “I felt so lonely and on edge when Bernie was in the nursing home. Now I have my best friend and protector back with me. We are just so happy.” When asked how he feels about being home, Bernie raises his fist and exclaims, “GRRRRREAT!”



Bernie and Micki visit with Jen McMahon, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Outreach Specialist who renewed their hope that Bernie could move home. Jen, along with Department of Human Services partners, worked to remove every barrier to Bernie's homecoming.



Bernie proudly waves his NJ Jets flag while hanging out with Abby, his friend and trusted in-home health aide.

ICHNJ is a partnership between NJ LTCO and the NJ Department of Human Services. For more information about the ICHNJ program: <http://bit.ly/2JC83Ox>

