

JOY COMMUNITY COMPANY

Helping families find the best living options for loved ones.

BY GAIL GOTTINGER

Help! It is the last thing anyone wants to ask for, as was the case for Josephine (Josie) up until the age of 89.

Josie, a graduate from high school in 1943, was known for her musical talents, vocals, flute and especially her piccolo. She performed with the Milwaukee Catholic Symphony and the All-Girl's Marching Band during and after WWII while working as a secretary for the Wisconsin Gas Company in the historic Gaslight Building in downtown Milwaukee. Josie married Edward (Eddie) March 31st, 1951, whom she had known from grade school and had anxiously awaited his return from the war. Together they built their home and began a family. Unfortunately, after 30 years of marriage, Eddie passed away at age 60.

Widowed at the age of 59, Josie continued life on her own. First was a trip to Mogadishu, Somalia to visit her son and family doing missionary work. She loved the experience; it was the trip of a lifetime! She then purchased a condo near the old neighborhood and took a job with a company that just happened to be located at the end of the street where she and Eddie had their home. Josie worked for that company until just a bit before her 83rd birthday. After retirement she kept busy with her weekly Tai chi classes at the local rec center and spent the better part of her weeks on any one of the many Milwaukee County golf courses with her Senior League. Then, just after her 89th birthday everything changed.

Josie had experienced a fall in her home, creating a much more sedentary lifestyle than usual. Unknowingly, pneumonia had set in and one January day she dialed 911. This led to a stay in the hospital with rehab to follow. She knew in her heart that going home was not an option and it was time to have the support offered at an assisted living community. There she could focus on the things that mattered most in her life, her Faith, exercise, meeting new people and of course puzzles! She quickly obtained the title of "Puzzle Queen" often having the staff to keep the lights on a bit later so she could finish. Even the mailman couldn't resist trying to get at least one piece placed when she was there working during his daily route. She very much enjoyed her time spent in her community, until she fell ill. Josie passed December 18th 2018, at the age of 93.

Josie was my mother and my inspiration to help older folks and their families find the best living option for their loved ones.



Gail Gottinger

HOW MY SERVICES WORK:

We first have a detailed discussion, here I learn all I can about health concerns past and present, financial and proximity preferences as well as likes, dislikes along with socials and faith-based interests. Then we tour the communities that best suit those needs and I am there to ask questions on your behalf. This provides a clear picture, as each community can function a bit differently. I have also built a vast network of people to help with all aspects of the transitions needed to either Independent Living, Assisted Living or a Memory Care community to ensure the proper support is there when needed. Most often, I provide this service at no cost to families because I am compensated by



Josie in - All-Girl's Marching Band.



Gail with mother Josie.



Gail with her mother Josie.

many of the communities. Feel free to call me to learn more before you contact senior communities.

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*Please do not put your personal information into any websites, these are very often lead generators that will then bombard you with phone calls!