

Kit Shakespeare, Dawn LaCross, and Joanna Carpenter

"To us, it is so easy. It's not like we have to try to include her. She is a part of us and our world. There are certain things in life that just feel right and having Kit in our life feels right."



"We give her physical care but she gives us a purpose in life. Certain things just feel right and having Kit in our life feels right. She is part of all the celebrations and holidays with our extended family. Making sure she is safe and included is effortless."

"And the neighbors are so happy that their children grew up with Kit as a neighbor. To them, there's nothing wrong with Kit. She's just Kit...no big deal."



"We are with Kit all the time, but it works for us. We are homebodies and we were looking for a particular fit, someone who would fit into our life and be happy here. It has been 13 years and we find that she gives us more than we give her. Like when she gets up in the morning and has her juice ...she is just so happy...Or being in the sun. She lives in the moment."



"As Kit is aging, she needs more medical care and greater assistance with eating and other basic tasks. She now has Alzheimer's and has forgotten how to swallow and needs a lot more assistance."

"She's moved from having a room upstairs to staying downstairs and now it is easier for her to have a bed on the floor that she can get in and out of. Some people look for extended care, but we're glad she can be here. Dawn has experience helping with feeding tubes and drips, so when we say we will take care of Kit as long as needed; we know what we are committing to. The emergency staff at Fletcher Allen have been so kind. "