

# A Unique Friendship

In Greenville we have a wonderful CNA named Amber Yarborough. Last week crisis care was started on one of our patients. Mr. Smith has end stage lung cancer. He lives in a one room apartment on the property of a family who he has worked for for over 25 years. He can not read or write but is almost like the horse whisperer when it comes to taking care of the horses on his employers horse ranch. He can no longer physically care for the horses but he is enjoying riding to the barn on a golf cart and instructing others how to care for the horses. Mr. Smith leads a very simple life.

On the night of his crisis care, Mr. Smith was having breathing problems. Amber was there to sit with him through the night during this time of crisis. It was a very cold January evening and he only had a small space heater. The inside temperature was nearly as cold as the outside temperature. In Mr. Smith's one-room apartment there are no walls and the toilet and the bath area are part of the living space. Even though he was weak and not feeling well, Mr. Smith was so concerned for Amber that he hung a blanket in front of the toilet so she could have privacy.

Before Mr. Smith went to sleep he asked Amber to sit in his recliner by his bed. He covered Amber with an old blanket to keep her warm. These two people, who had been complete strangers a short time ago, had become friends, each caring deeply for the other's dignity.

Mr. Smith soon recovered from the crisis. Amber continued to visit him and their trust between each other grew. Mr. Smith even let Amber clean out his refrigerator and do some things for him that he had not allowed before. He carefully followed her instructions on taking medicine and listened to all of her health advice.

Amber and Mr. Smith truly have formed a unique friendship that could only come from the heart!

Submitted by: Nancy Weinberg, Greenville County



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