A Full Recovery Thanks to Exceptional Rehabilitation

On a pleasant late October day 87-year-old Arleen Amstutz was on her riding mower headed to close a gate on her farm. Unfortunately, she was suddenly thrown from the mower and got tangled in the cornfield and got tangled in the cornstalks,” explained Arleen.

After the accident, Arleen had to deal with the trauma to her 14-year-old right replacement knee. Eventually she healed, and felt well until she slipped and fell. This time, the knee was badly damaged and needed to be replaced. Arleen returned to her orthopedic surgeon and was immediately scheduled for knee surgery. The surgery went well, and when she was discharged, she was told to continue her recovery by finding the best Inpatient Rehabilitation, in the Wayne County area. Her son, Mike Amstutz, accompanied his mother on her search, and when they arrived at Wooster Community Hospital’s Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit they knew they had found the right place. Mike was enthusiastic in his praise of their visit to the unit when he said, “They couldn’t have been more welcoming – the nurses and physical therapists gave us a tour and they were gracious, insightful and spent a lot of time explaining their goals in working with patients. Our decision to be admitted there turned out to be the best medical experience ever, and for that we are extremely grateful.”

Patients of the rehabilitation unit receive physical therapy (PT) in the morning and afternoon, and each patient’s therapy is designed for their individual needs. The patients enjoy getting to know one another while having lunch and dinner together. Arleen said, “I had to work very hard in PT and it wasn’t always easy or painless. The physical therapists push you to the limit but they are so kind and gentle that they make you want to do better each time.”

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— written by Carolyn Abramson

Matilda Wentz had hip replacement surgery in Findlay, Ohio, but when the time came for rehabilitation, there was no hospital-based extended care. She knew that WCH’s TCU recently received an award by US News and World Report as a Best Nursing Home facility and decided to choose the unit for her rehabilitation needs. Mrs. Wentz said, “I would give the TCU an A plus grade. I could see that all the patients got the same excellent care. When a patient called for a nurse, the response was always quick, and our needs were attended to right away.” Matilda is now home and ready to walk independently.

Matilda Wentz

Frederick Vannewkirk is no stranger to Wooster Community Hospital (WCH) where he has been hospitalized several times for medical reasons. He describes his most recent hospitalization as a totally different experience: “During my previous hospitalizations, I always felt as if I was not quite ready to be discharged. With my recent stay, I was told I needed extended care, which to me meant ‘nursing home.’ I was so pleased to learn that I could be moved to the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) at WCH. While in the TCU I had such a high level of care. The therapy professionals were top notch and helped me a lot with balance issues. I was on what is usually a boring low-salt diet, but the food was delicious. The employees were never too busy to take time to stop and talk with me. I really enjoyed the programs offered by the activities director, and when the time came for my discharge, I was ready to go home.”

Frederick Vannewkirk

— written by Carolyn Abramson