

## Ellen and Dick Howie

### **Ellen Howie:**

**Why do I volunteer for CC?** *As a registered nurse concerned with community health I am delighted to be part of an organization dedicated to maintaining the "independence, dignity and quality of life" for people of our service area. My volunteer service now is to serve on the Advisory Board and the Long-Range Planning Committee. When Community Caregivers began, I served on the Board of Directors for 7 years.*

**How do I do it?:** *I attend meetings as required. Since we began our yearly Gala and Auction fund-raising event, I have obtained items for the auction and sold tickets for the gala. During our past 3-year fund-raising efforts I also participated as a speaker attending neighborhood gatherings and talking to small groups to ask other people to pledge generously to this organization.*

### **Dick Howie:**

**Why do I volunteer for Community Caregivers:** *I have felt from day one that the Community Caregivers program is a wonderful service to offer people. Since I like to drive, I signed up to do transportation. It has been a wonderful experience taking people to their medical appointments, shopping, etc. One time I dropped a gentleman off at the Off Track Betting, something he enjoyed and couldn't get out to do on his own. I haven't heard if he was lucky.*

**What is it like when you are helping someone?** *All the time I have done this each person has thanked me and expressed their gratitude for this service. Sometimes people have offered compensation either to pay for the gas or just money which I do not accept. One time I was offered an ice cream cone which I accepted; We all have our weaknesses! In situations where a client wants to show their appreciation I always suggest that they can make a donation to Community Caregivers. During my time doing this the experience of being with those who share about their lives and family has been great. A lot of the people I take live alone or their family are far away so they appreciate being able to spend a little time with someone.*

*There is so much good to be shared. In some instances there have been people who have received this service who later became Community Caregivers volunteers themselves.*

*Since our family members live out of state, I'm not always available to take a transportation request when it comes. But it is always hard to say "no", because we know that the coordinators are also working hard to arrange each trip and to ensure that everyone who calls for service can have a helping hand. Everyone is so great and so patient.*

*Ellen and I feel very privileged to be a part of this wonderful organization and to offer our services.*