

Catholic Charities

Diocese of Joliet



"Love works miracles every day"

Marguerite DeValois

Miracle Moments . . .

She had been in a coma for four months. The doctors felt there was nothing left to do. Her family was called. Lynn was not supposed to make it. But a miracle happened. As her sister was flying to see her in a Chicago hospital, possibly for the last time, Lynn woke up. She had come out of the coma, but her hard work had just begun.

Lynn had no memory of her life before the coma. She could not remember her family or her friends. She could not remember that she worked as a flight attendant and a teacher. She did not remember that she had a Masters Degree in English with a minor in Speech. She could not remember how to stand, walk, get dressed, or even speak. "The coma took away my ability to talk." A speech therapist at the hospital did not think she would ever speak again. Lynn was not able to do a lot of things, but she was determined. She spent 2 ½ years in a nursing home learning all of the things she used to be able to do. Then one day, the nursing home said she had to leave. She had nowhere to go and no family close by for support.

That's when Catholic Charities stepped in. Lynn heard about Catholic Charities Senior Services for low income individuals through her contact at the nursing home. She was put in touch with Dorothy, a Senior Services Case Manager in the Kankakee office that helped Lynn get all of the services she needed to live independently.

First, Catholic Charities helped Lynn find an affordable apartment as well as a homemaker to come in and help her with daily living five days per week. Once she was settled, Catholic Charities enrolled her in the Senior Companion Program. Two days per week, a Catholic Charities Senior volunteer visits with Lynn. Together they read, visit the local food pantry or just spend time talking. She is also working with Catholic Charities' Money Management Program to help her pay bills, keep track of financial matters, and budgeting. Dorothy continues to help her with referrals to other community services such as Meals on Wheels.

Lynn's life is back on track. She has learned to walk and talk again, but most importantly, she is on her way to becoming independent. Catholic Charities was there for her when she had nowhere to turn and she is determined to keep going. "Catholic Charities saved my life and they are there for me everyday!"