

Meet the Riders



Jerry & Judy Crotsenberg, both 68
Hillsboro, Wis.

Caregivers to Judy's mother, June,
for 15 years

"Caregiving is one of the most highly paid jobs where you don't receive money. Its reward is in the heart."

For their nearly 50-year marriage, Jerry and Judy have been caregivers in one form or another. It's something they say they were put on Earth to do. From taking care of Judy's father for many years, to volunteering with the local fire department, and now caring for Judy's mom, June, they have provided care in their rural community for decades. At 91 years old, June depends on them for help with things like transportation and yardwork—everyday activities that many people may take for granted. Every other week, Judy takes June grocery shopping in the nearest town. **"I drop her off at the door and then she walks the store by herself. I'm done much sooner than her so I wait on a bench. It's something I don't mind doing, and it makes her happy."**

Jerry and Judy are the definition of a team. They share in checking on June a couple of times each day. This approach helps them navigate the challenges of caregiving, like when June needs something done immediately. **"We take each event one at a time and deal with it as it comes,"** said Jerry. But the challenges are more than worth it to keep June close and safe.

Caregiving for so long in rural conditions has provided Jerry and Judy with insight into what they want as they age. They know they must depend on others from time to time. According to Jerry, **"if you want to give care, you have to have care."** When they are not caring for June, Jerry walks the farm's many wooded hills while Judy visits with their daughter and grandsons who provide support when Jerry and Judy need a break. For their own aging, Jerry and Judy feel **"blessed to have the next generations on the farm, hoping they'll fill shoes like we did."**