

May 16, 2005

Dear Marinell and Livia,

I have wanted to write to both of you to thank you for the love and care you gave Claire during the time that she lived with you. I cannot thank both of you enough for the love that you extended to Claire. We could not have asked for a better place for Claire to have been living nor for better care for her. Never was there a time that we ever had to worry about her, knowing always that she was in loving hands. I am constantly amazed at the little things you do for each of these grandmas: involving your children, the birthday parties, Marinell taking each one individually to see the Christmas lights so that they can sit in the front seat so that they can see, the individually brightly decorated rooms, the homemade meals, special treats, special holiday meals and so much more! Even Marinell's quiet way of letting the grandma's sit outside with him while he plants his geraniums was such a joy to watch. All are such wonderful ways of sharing your lives and making these ladies feel special.

During the final week, you made her so comfortable that I know she felt little or no pain and was as comfortable as she could possibly be and was where she wanted to be. She loved both of you and I know that it was a comfort to her to have both of you caring for her in the comfort of "her home" during her final days.

My how far we have come in the time that Claire stayed with you, from her not wanting to stay, to feeling so comfortable and secure that it brought back a couple days of strength upon her return from the hospital after seeing the two of you and all of her friends at "home".

You have a wonderful home, which you share with all the "grandmas", for which I am sure they are as grateful as my entire family is for all of you. I often tell my friends of the angels we have found and how I hope that you never grow old so that you can care for me when I need it someday in the distant future.

I have enclosed a copy of what I read at Claire's Memorial since you were not able to attend. I thought you might like to read it so that you understand why I felt so close to Claire and why we will always consider her a part of our family.

I will miss stopping by to see Claire and being able to see both of you and your two lovely children. We will have to stay in touch over the years so that I can see how Megan and Nathan grow into beautiful young people over the years. I'll be sure to let you know as "big events", or "not so big events" happen for Anna and David so that you can "catch up" on all the comings and goings of life! Things seem to happen so quickly these days it's hard to keep up some times!

You both truly have a gift of caring and compassion and I thank you again from the bottom of my heart. You are truly God's Angels doing his work here on earth!

Love,  
Auntie

Blessings to you and your family always,

*Christine*