

# LEE CONGLETON

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Meadowthorpe Assisted Living  
191 Leestown Center Way  
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

## **TO THE STAFF OF MEADOWTHORPE,**

Years ago mom had an accident that would ultimately take her from the home that she truly loved. She was a very busy person before the fall keeping up with her small business of rental properties, being a neighbor, being a mom and most especially being a grandmother. She had lost dad back in 2009 and had been alone since. Mom was a skilled bookkeeper and always had a plan, let's say a budget, for the future. One of the plans was for her to never live with one of her children. She had taken care of her mother-in-law for years and did not have a good experience. She was transferred to a couple of facilities during her recovery (they were attempting to get her walking again). Each of these gave the option for her to stay long term but she was very unhappy at these locations. Once we were informed that mom was wheelchair bound and was not going to be capable of going home, I began to look for her new home.

My wife and I are both funeral homeowners, owning two in Kentucky. We have worked with nursing homes and assisted living facilities all over the tristate area for over twenty years and felt confident about what we were doing. We took the day off from work having a long list of places that had been recommended. None seem to fit my mom's personality, but they were well established. One of her neighbors told us that there had been a flyer delivered to the neighborhood that spoke of a new assisted living facility near her residence. We added this to the list.

We decided to start with the closest location-Meadowthorpe Assisted Living- to mom's house located in Meadowthorpe subdivision and work our way out. When we arrived, we saw a new, clean and well laid out facility. It was multiple buildings with several apartments in each. We were greeted by the manager of the facility ready for our tour. As we walked through the first building, we saw an eating area that was common to the residents of that building with den like area for sitting. As we walked around, we were greeted by the staff with smiles and welcoming hellos. The current residence did the same. My wife and I commented to each other on how we had never really seen this type of layout before in facilities for this type of care. We were shown an empty apartment that had a kitchen area and a den combined. The bedroom was another room with a walk-in closet and a very nice, private, handicap bathroom. This was very

spacious and basically an apartment less a stove. We were shown the activities for the month, the menu for food and discovered that each of the other buildings on the campus had different uses. One had a pool table, and another had a hair salon and that the tenants could share and visit these at will. My wife and I both agreed that we would be very happy living there ourselves. We didn't need to look any further. None of the other locations even came close to mom's wish. Meadowthorpe had more than mom had hoped for. We shook hands and proceeded to get her moved in as soon as possible. I knew mom would love it.

Mom was very happy to move out of her current location, but even happier when she saw her new apartment. My brother, my wife and I moved her belongings in an afternoon. She was elated with her new place. She settled in quickly. Over the months she developed friends, attended movies with the bus service provided, started an above ground garden, crafts...she was having a ball. All the while in the background the staff was cleaning her room, providing meals (that she would never have cooked for herself), setting up doctor's appointments, making sure her laundry was done, medicine given and ordered, helping her with anything she needed. It was all overwhelming what was being provided, so much more than I, or her, ever expected.

Over time mom began to call it home. She had stories to tell. She was happy and told me so. Last year mom was diagnosed with dementia and later Alzheimer's. As she forgot her home, friends and eventually even me, she seemed calm not scared. The things that she did remember were the staff. She would ask why she was in this strange room and who I was but would perk up when she saw a staff member and would call them by name. I can't tell you how much this gave me comfort.

I can honestly say there was never any regret on moving mom into this facility. The concept, the layout and most especially the staff, were far more than mom could have ever hoped for when she designed this plan.

Thank all you for what you did for mom, she will truly miss you all,

Sincerely Lee Congleton - Jan's son.