

3 August 2013

Dear Christos,

I have only very recently heard about your organization, and what a wonderful idea and structure it is. It is long overdue.

In my situation, I have the full time responsibility of my ninety five year old mother. She lives with me, and requires much of my time and attention. She is still able to crochet, do puzzle books, dress and toilet herself, but that is where it ends. I do all her cooking, washing, help with showering, get her morning and afternoon cuppa's, and medication. Then there is the constant doctor and specialist appointments, and the never ending trips to the chemist. In a way, this is not a chore because I love her. But it is time consuming. It is very demanding.

Besides my aged mother, I sometimes assist my daughter in her home, because she too has many disabilities (due to a car accident). I do some of her family's washing, their dishes, at times I clean their floors, and change their bed linen etc. She has two little children. So I take them to school and to day-care when I can, and they often have sleep-overs with me. This is to help my daughter, particularly on days when she is in so much pain. The kids don't understand the reality of their situation, and for why they have sleep overs with me, so at the moment they love it.

I also take my daughter to some of her appointments. Again, I would not hesitate to help my daughter and family because I love them. But again, it takes so much of my time, and I'm not getting any younger.

But if we were all able to live in one family Freedom Housing home, with help, support, and others to provide care and take some of the responsibility that my daughter (with disabilities) would normally have, it would be absolutely wonderful. Just to be able to go out, to shop and have a cuppa with friends, knowing my family were all okay, would be a dream come true.

To have someone there to help my daughter and my frail mother, to be able to call for assistance at all times, to be able to leave the house and know my loved ones are safe, would bring such peace of mind. Not only to bring support, but to know someone really cares about me and my family. Someone who would love them for who they are, and demonstrate that love, through practical ways.

I don't mind doing my part, but to share the work load, particularly the many doctors' appointments would be such a relief. I feel that half of my time is waiting in doctors' surgeries. To have the day off, just to sit and read, sounds absolutely wonderful.

Thank you very much for your time. I believe that your Freedom Housing is great. I fully support it. I thank you, and encourage you all. Keep up the good work. This will help so many people. It will bring peace of mind, and it will give real lives back to people with disabilities – and to their carers - who have all slowly but surely lost them.

Yours truly,

Laura

(This is not my real name. Please ask Christos if you'd like to contact me. He will pass on your details.)