

COMING HOME

The first moment I came to the front door of Wildpine, without even stepping foot inside the building, I knew I had come “home”; the remainder would only be footnotes to a new story and a new threshold in my life. It’s incredibly synchronistic that the movie “ET” in 2002 touched such a deep space in our hearts: home. We all want to “go home.” Internet home pages ever since have sprung up everywhere. Business, of course, eventually commercialized them but the underlying feeling was always a spiritual one: that “home” is where our hearts find rest. We all want to live and experience home. In Latin the word “rest” is *quies*, from which we get the word *quiet*. Beyond the din and clamor of everyday life, televisions, marketing, social media, we are all searching for that sense of inner peace, of rest, what we name as “peace and quiet.”

For me just walking in the front doors of Wildpine Retirement Residence told me that I was safe, that I had come home. At this time of our lives – the elder years – for sure there is a slow waning, more or less, of our physical forces. What we do experience inwardly, however, is that each of us is on a pilgrimage toward Home. Wildpine is a home of rest where we interiorly experience this inner ‘pull’ to a future worth going to. I cannot say enough about the cleanliness of my new home, the incredible cheerfulness of all the staff, the daily hugs and recognition from staff, the good meals, the rapport among everyone, the attentiveness that each person receives, the personal recognition, by name, that we all are given, the incredible depth of love, compassion and kindness from every staff member. I have come home.

ET was right: I realize more and more each day that my new home is Wildpine Retirement Residence. Michelangelo (1474-1565) said one time, “Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it. I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.”

Carefully and with compassion attending to each one of us, the staff at Wildpine see our “angels,” whether we do or not, with whatever the day may bring. It is this carefulness with each one of us that allows us to grow more and more deeply into our waning years. We are truly blessed. A huge thank you to all the staff.

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