

## Larry's Story

Larry was born in Mason City, Iowa in 1947. His parents, Edward and Margaret, became concerned that their newest of three children wasn't developing at a normal rate. The doctors told them that Larry had been born with cerebral palsy. The disease affected his nervous system and would hinder his physical and mental development. His parents were determined to make Larry's life as normal as possible.

The family moved to St. Paul where more opportunities were available for children with special needs. Larry attended the St. Paul Rehabilitation Center and Lindsay School where he received occupational, physical, and speech therapy, and he learned to walk with crutches. In time, he became stronger and more independent, carrying his crutches with him on a three-wheeled bike as he roamed far and wide around his neighborhood.



Larry graduated from Mechanic Arts High School in St. Paul. He listened and learned the words to most of the popular music of the sixties and seventies and became a great Minnesota sports fan along with his father. Music is important to the residents of English House and Larry still shares his love of music with his fellow residents. On any day you visit, you might hear them belting out the words to a Beatles or Clearwater Revival song.

Larry and his mom moved to a senior housing apartment in Roseville, Minnesota. When his mother passed on, Larry found a handicapped-accessible apartment in the same building and he began eighteen years of independent living with help from his sister, brother, and home health aides. He relished his independence. Arising early each day, he would go to work at Merrick, Inc. He learned to wash his clothes and his aides helped him shop for groceries.

Larry fought hard to maintain his independence, but as he aged, it became harder for him to manage in spite of the help he received. In addition, his older brother and sister were finding it harder to provide the increasing assistance Larry needed. Larry's social worker found openings at Phoenix Residence, Inc. that fit Larry's personality and his physical needs.



We visited several of the Phoenix homes and were impressed with the facilities, programs, and staff. Larry ended up choosing English House. He took to his new residence right away and never fails to tell us how much he loves living there. The well-trained staff at English House are attentive and caring, provide activities and outings that keep the residents interested, and provide a safe and healthy environment. It has given us great joy to see Larry's sense of humor and contentment return; he is definitely a happy guy in his new home.

We have come to depend on and appreciate PRI and their staff for the outstanding service they give to Larry and his housemates. With all of the challenges facing group homes, we hope you will join us in supporting The Phoenix Residence, Inc.

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