

Elderly Wish Foundation grants Brentwood man's wish | News

Aly Brown

3-4 minutes

An Elderly Wish Foundation recently lit up the lives of Brentwood residents, one of whom was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Dianne Naujok reached out to the foundation, beginning her letter with “I was raised never to ask for anything, however, this is for Klaus Naujok, a great husband, father and man.” Dianne’s letter further detailed the condition of her husband, Klaus, who was diagnosed with an advanced stage of multiple myeloma and told he would never go into remission. Her request was an overnight stay at a lighthouse, a dream of Klaus’ who once flirted with the idea of purchasing one in earlier years.

“Since he has been diagnosed, so much has been taken from him, his health, his independence, his freedom,” Dianne wrote. “So I am asking for this wish to take him, so he can stay in a lighthouse, something he has always wanted to do but never got the chance to do.”

Dianne had sent the letter July 9 and shortly thereafter, Mary Chapman, the foundation director, and her team set to work. An Elderly Wish Foundation is a nonprofit organization that helps grant terminally ill seniors a wish. The idea for the foundation was sparked 16 years ago by Rebecca Crowder, who used the inheritance money she received after her own mother’s passing to grant two wishes. Seeing the joy it brought to the recipients and their families, Crowder was inspired to create An Elderly Wish Foundation.

“Our foundation was happy to look into the request,” said Chapman. “Once our office decided we would grant this wish, we reserved the first opening for reservations, which was not until the last week of September. (An Elderly Wish Foundation) booked a two-night, three-day stay for Klaus and Dianne. I called to tell Dianne we had made reservations for them, and she was beside herself with joy!”

After receiving doctor approval, Klaus and Dianne packed their bags for the weekend of a lifetime where gourmet meals were served beside the sea at East Brother Lighthouse, a restored Victorian bed and breakfast inn perched atop an island that separates the San Francisco and San Pablos bays.

Klaus was in for another surprise.

“(The managers) even left us alone to be lighthouse keepers for 30 minutes while they went to the mainland,” said Dianne. “Thank you from the bottom of our hearts ... It was amazing from start to finish. Klaus had three great days.”

For more information on An Elderly Wish Foundation, call 925-978-1883 or email info@elderlywish.org.