

Caregiver Spotlight Bill and Sandy Panzigrav

“Don’t be afraid to accept help and don’t be afraid to give help.”

During June, we honor Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month. We celebrate caregivers who are dedicated to loved ones on a journey with dementia. Bill Panzigrav, Wausau, is a devoted caregiver for his wife, Sandy, who has been living with Alzheimer's for 17 years. The couple has 2 adult children and 2 grandchildren and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

“When Sandy was diagnosed, the first 10-12 years were fine, and most people didn't even know she had Alzheimer's,” Bill shared. “As things evolved, we utilized home health, but a couple of years ago, we had to move her to a care facility. Sandy and I are very into Polka dancing so the first year she was in the facility, we would still go dancing. Then COVID hit, and we could only do window visits or talk on the phone. That was really hard. It was such a relief when I was able to see her again and hold her hand.”



Bill has been involved in multiple support groups offered by the Alzheimer's Association for the last six years; a Wausau area support group and a caregiver support group for those with a loved one in a facility. “I find I share a lot and hope I'm helping others,” Bill said. “It's beneficial to be able to share with others who understand. Don't be afraid to accept help and don't be afraid to give help.”

During Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month we salute Bill for his dedication to Sandy.

