

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Rapids, Michigan — Clark Retirement Community is proud to share the inspiring story of resident Don Vroman and his late wife Janet through the powerful documentary *Life in the Fast Lane*, a moving tribute to love, caregiving, resilience, and finding purpose through life's most difficult chapters.

The documentary follows Don and Janet's journey after Janet was diagnosed with dementia and the emotional challenges that came with becoming a full-time caregiver. As Janet's needs progressed, the couple turned to Clark Retirement Community's specialized memory care program, where Janet received compassionate support and personalized care designed to help her continue living a meaningful and purposeful life.

With Janet safe and supported, Don was able to step out of the constant role of caregiver and rediscover himself in an unexpected way—through race car driving.

What began as a new hobby quickly became a passion. Clark Retirement Community embraced Don's adventurous spirit and even sponsored his race car, encouraging him to continue pursuing joy, excitement, and purpose while navigating one of life's most emotional journeys.

"Don and Janet's story is a powerful reminder that aging and even a dementia diagnosis do not define a person's ability to continue living a meaningful, purposeful life," said Megan Ulrich, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations for BHI Senior Living. "This documentary highlights the importance of supporting not only the individual living with dementia, but also the caregiver. We hope their journey helps break down stereotypes surrounding aging and shows families that senior living communities can help people continue writing incredible new chapters."

Sadly, Janet has since passed away, but her legacy continues to live on through Don, her family, friends, and the many lives she touched throughout the Clark community. Her warmth, compassion, and famous hugs became a source of comfort and encouragement for fellow caregivers and residents alike.

The documentary also serves as a broader message about breaking down outdated stereotypes surrounding aging and senior living. Rather than representing "the last chapter," communities like Clark Retirement Community help older adults embrace new experiences, pursue passions, build friendships, and continue writing meaningful next chapters in their lives.

"Don and Janet embody what community truly means," said Percell Smith, Regional Vice President of Operations for Clark Retirement Community. "Their story reflects resilience, love,

support, and the importance of helping individuals maintain dignity, purpose, and connection throughout every stage of life. We are honored to have been part of their journey and proud to share their story with others.”

Life in the Fast Lane debuted during the LeadingAge Michigan's Annual Conference last month, where it was shared with aging services professionals from across the state as an example of innovative storytelling, purposeful aging, and compassionate memory support.

The documentary was produced in partnership with TaleGate and acclaimed storyteller Jack York, who worked alongside Clark Retirement Community, BHI Senior Living, Don’s family, residents, and team members to bring the story to life.

Clark Retirement Community, a BHI Senior Living community located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, offers a full continuum of care including independent living, assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing services focused on enhancing quality of life, dignity, purpose, and connection for older adults.

To watch the full documentary, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfLbaYN0w8A&t=193>

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