

THE SEATTLE TIMES

(Written by a husband of a resident of Viewhaven AFH)

Re: ADULT FAMILY HOMES

The recent series of articles regarding Adult Family Homes paints the industry with far more negativity than I think it deserves. My family may be an example of how good they can be.

My wife suffered three falls in late 1997 and early 1998. The first two broke bones in both shoulders and the third fractured her hip. She was a miserable failure at rehabilitation and it was suggested that I move her to an Adult Family Home. I was put in contact with a lady who keeps a data base of homes she has personally inspected. She then analyzed the needs of my wife and tried to fit her into a home with an available room. She took me on a tour of five different homes and I made the choice of the one I liked the best. Best of all, it was only a two minute drive from my house. My wife has now lived there the past year and a half and we are completely pleased with our selection.

The Home is attractive and well maintained. The help is loving and kind. There are always at least two and sometimes three workers sharing the duties of cooking, cleaning and caring for the residents. At least one of them is a registered nurse or has had nurse's aid training. The meals are made with the best of ingredients and are well cooked. Drugs are kept in a locked closet and administered per doctor's orders. Residents are kept neat and clean and their clothes are laundered daily. A great effort is made to keep things sanitary. Rubber gloves are used when handling residents and a constant outlook is made for skin blemishes or bed sores.

The cost of all this is not cheap but is about a third of what keeping her in a Nursing Home would have been. The D.S.H.S. sends a person in each year to question the residents, their family and the staff regarding conditions at the home. A written report was made and sent to each resident. I understand a copy will also be posted on the bulletin board in the future.

While I feel sorry for the many cases of poor treatment reported by the Times, I place a lot of the fault on the resident's families. Had they spent more time visiting, observing and questioning their loved one, the poor conditions were self evident. The solution was to quickly move them to a better home. There are plenty of good ones available. The poor ones will either have to correct their problems or go broke with a lack of residents.

Sincerely, Frank B. Carter