



### **Geneva's Story**

Geneva was a registered nurse for 32 years working in a hospital setting as the head nurse on various units. She developed the first infection control program in the hospital, and enjoyed the hands-on care of her patients. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1974 resulting in a mastectomy, and in 1989 had a stroke that paralyzed her on the left side. As a result, she had to walk with a quad cane and use a brace on her left leg.

Geneva lived in an apartment complex for the elderly where she was the secretary of the Tenant's Association and organized a Bible study. Due to her limitations, she didn't have access to all the care and support that she needed on a regular basis, and because her son worked remotely quite often, she had a hard time getting to her doctor's appointments. With her health starting to decline it became more difficult to maintain the social schedule she so loved. She learned about the LIFE program and after a few discussions and lots of encouragement from her son, she inquired further into the program, and became a LIFE participant.

Geneva thoroughly enjoyed the socialization and varied activities the LIFE Center offers. She often said she felt better on the days she attended the LIFE Center and appreciated the LIFE transportation that got her to all of her scheduled doctor's appointments. Her primary goal upon entering the program was to strengthen her left leg and eventually walk without the brace that had been part of her life for so long. The LIFE therapy department worked with her regularly to achieve this goal. Geneva said, "When I come through the doors at LIFE it makes me smile and sing! It gives me a chance to feel needed; I want to be someone's angel!"