



SOCIAL ISOLATION IN BOULDER COUNTY

AS SEEN THROUGH THE SENIOR REACH LENS

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ANNE

ANNE IS A 72 Y/O WIDOWED MOTHER WHO RECENTLY RELOCATED TO BOULDER COUNTY FROM OHIO TO LIVE CLOSER TO HER ADULT SON AND GRANDCHILDREN. ANNE SOLD HER HOME OF 50 YEARS TO MOVE INTO A SMALL 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT. ANNE BELIEVED SHE WOULD BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH HER FAMILY. HOWEVER, DUE TO BUSY FAMILY LIFE, SHE WAS SEEING HER SON AND GRANDCHILDREN LESS AND LESS. ANNE STARTED TO FEEL LONELY AND FEARFUL ABOUT DRIVING IN HER NEW TOWN. SHE HAS NO FRIENDS, IS IN UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS AND HAS LIMITED FAMILY INTERACTION. ANNE FEELS SHE HAS LOST SO MUCH IN SUCH A SHORT TIME AND NOW SHE IS EXPERIENCING ANXIETY AND BARELY LEAVES HER HOME.

BILL AND CLAIRE

BILL AND CLAIRE HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR 54 YEARS, LIVING IN A HOME THEY OWN, WHERE THEY RAISED THEIR 3 CHILDREN. BILL WORKED AS AN ENGINEER AND HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE “HANDYMAN”. BILL STARTED TO SHOW SIGNS OF FORGETFULNESS AND CONFUSION AND WAS RECENTLY DIAGNOSED WITH MILD COGNITIVE DECLINE. NOW, BILL RELIES ON CLAIRE TO HELP MAINTAIN THEIR LIFE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SHOPPING, CLEANING, DRIVING AND HOMECARE. CLAIRE HAD HIP REPLACEMENT 6 MONTHS AGO AND HAS ARTHRITIS IN HER OTHER HIP, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR HER TO STAY ON HER FEET ALL DAY. CLAIRE FEELS GUILTY LEAVING BILL TO GO TO HER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, SO SHE HAS SCALED BACK ON GOING OUT. BOTH HAVE BECOME ISOLATED FROM THEIR PEER GROUPS. BILL AND CLAIRE BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES.

ROBERTO

ROBERTO IS 82 YEARS OLD, HEALTHY AND ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY. HE HAS MANY FRIENDS WHO HAVE BECOME HIS FAMILY OVER THE YEARS. ROBERTO IS ESTRANGED FROM HIS CHILDREN FOR PAST 20 YEARS. HE ENJOYED HIS RETIREMENT BY RIDING HIS BICYCLE, TAKING CLASSES IN PHOTOGRAPHY, AND BEING A LEADER IN HIS FAITH COMMUNITY. OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, HE STARTED TO LOSE VISION AND HEARING. AS THESE ISSUES CONTINUED TO DECLINE, HE STOPPED ENGAGING IN HIS REGULAR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. ROBERTO NO LONGER WENT BIKING OR WENT TO WORSHIP SERVICES. HE LOST THE ABILITY TO DRIVE. HE HAS TO RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF FRIENDS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION. HIS MOOD HAS CHANGED AND HE FEELS SAD MOST OF THE TIME.

DOLLY

DOLLY IS 68, LIVING SINCE COLLEGE IN A RURAL MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY. SHE PURCHASED THE OLD HOME THAT NOW NEEDS MAJOR UPKEEP. DOLLY OWNS A SMALL BUSINESS THAT JUST KEEPS HER AFLOAT. SHE HAS DEVELOPED A GOOD SOCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM OVER THE YEARS BUT FRIENDS, WHO ARE ALSO AGING, ARE MOVING AWAY. LITTLE BY LITTLE, DOLLY'S SOCIAL NETWORK IS SHRINKING. HER CLOSEST FRIEND IS DISABLED AND IS MAKING PLANS TO MOVE TO ANOTHER STATE TO BE WITH FAMILY. DOLLY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE FIRST TO OFFER HELP TO OTHERS AND NOW THAT SHE IS THE ONE NEEDING ASSISTANCE, SHE REFUSES TO ASK. IT IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT TO PAY HER RENT AND PURCHASE FOOD AND FIREWOOD. SHE IS FEARFUL OF LOSING HER HOME, LOSING HER FRIENDSHIPS AND HER LIVELIHOOD.