

Testimony for keeping the YDC opened:

Home means a lot more than the walls that surround us. Home is about security, it's about safety, it's about knowing that you are loved unconditionally. That's what the YDC offers its residence. My sister, Elaine Rogers, was one of the very first to reside at the YDC and has been there for over 30 years!! Our father, Charles Rogers, was very instrumental in making the YDC a reality. Once it was up and running he served on the original Board of Directors. I have tried to carry on his legacy serving on two committees at the YDC, the Citizen Advisory Council and the Quality of Life committee, both to help insure the welfare of my sister and her peers. My other two sisters (Cheryl Maiorca and Suzanne Wysenski ) and myself are Elaine's advocates. Suzanne and I are also her co-guardians. I am devoted to the ongoing protection of my younger sister and that means keeping the YDC up and running. Elaine has a vocabulary of about 5 words and is otherwise non-verbal. I always know that at the YDC she has excellent care and lives in an environment of love. At any given moment medical assistance could be needed and she has that available 24/7. Moving her, and those like her, after 25 – 30 years at the YDC seems to be a very cold, money-only driven decision with total disregard to the feelings of not only the residents but the many tax-paying extended family members as well. She deserves the best and she has that at the YDC. I pray that my voice, her voice and those of other YDC families are heard !

With deep concern,

Diane J. Sava 5/11/15

*Diane J. Sava*