

## The Client

*Dementia isn't a destination: it's a journey. It can speed up and plateau. It has highs, lows and corners. So for dementia care to be successful, it must be able to keep pace with the disease.*

*Nina's first home care agency couldn't keep up. Fiercely independent, Nina lives alone in a sprawling house her husband built, a place with sentimental value that she refuses to leave. As her dementia worsened, Nina began rejecting the agency's help with daily activities and throwing their caregivers out of the house. But after undergoing shoulder surgery, rehabilitation was crucial. So although her son expected Nina to refuse care the way she had in the past, he called Tender Rose.*

## The Challenge

Our first challenge was to overcome Nina's mistrust of care—a holdout from her previous agency. But that wasn't the only hurdle. When Nina's dementia reached a new stage, her care had to evolve as well. With a hip surgery looming, she needed help with pain management. After the surgery, her recovery called for around-the-clock care to handle multiple appointments, a challenging discharge, a new walker and a grueling physical therapy schedule. Once she acclimated to the new hip, her care could be scaled back, but when she could no longer navigate the stairs and shower, she needed 24/7 help again.



## The Solution

Nina's Tender Rose care team quickly found ways to win her trust and distract her from her rage: simply bringing up her favorite show Judge Judy, for example, would bring her back to happy ground. The team knew that distractions were crucial, not just to convince Nina to accept physical care, but to keep her engaged: Nina is an artist, a social butterfly, and an extrovert. She likes to see her friends, go out to lunch and visit art galleries. Nina needs care that extends beyond her physical upkeep to the upkeep of her heart and soul.

Our care has adapted to the ebb and flow of Nina's dementia. We're able to dial it up based on her needs, and dial it down when she's adapted to change. Her team understands her triggers and limits, and how to approach her care in ways that cause minimal agitation.



We work closely with her doctor, reporting symptoms while he adjusts her medications to achieve the right balance to temper her violent and agitated episodes. When Nina could no longer navigate the upper levels of her home, her MCP created a living space in the dining room and disguised the stairs. The team overcame her fear of showers by giving her gentle bed baths. They anticipate her thoughts and adjust their approach accordingly.

## The Outcome

Today, our flexible coverage allows Nina to live alone with dignity, in the beautiful home that's so close to her heart. She doesn't go out as much since she began having seizures, but she still loves art and music. She still does puzzles and savors her meals. She still goes on scenic drives with her MCPs and enjoys the views.

We've been able to provide the care Nina needs, when she needs it. Most importantly, Nina has found joy and meaning in her life again, despite the twists and turns of dementia.

**If someone you know with dementia is refusing care, needs medical help or has no quality of life, call us. We'll help you find a solution.**

Call (415) 340-3990 or visit [www.TenderRose.com](http://www.TenderRose.com)

Care<sup>in</sup>Full  
Bloom