



## Family Reflections...

My husband (Tom Pfirman) was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 5 years ago at the age of 57. This was not something we had planned for or expected to have to deal with, especially at this age. I was not in a position to quit my job and stay home with Tom and had no idea what to do. The staff at The Alzheimer's Association introduced me to Laurie Ray with COPE Eldercare at a time when I was felt totally helpless. Laurie helped in so many ways, first by listening and caring, later by reassuring and supporting. Our family members and friends have been wonderful, but they don't always have the resources and answers.

I always knew Laurie was only a phone call away and she never let me down. I quickly learned how a geriatric care manager could be of help. She made recommendations for legal and financial assistance, adult day care, weekend respite options, and as the disease progressed she was there to help me find a facility when I could no longer care for Tom at home. Without the assistance from COPE Eldercare and a geriatric care manager, I'm not sure where we would be now. I've passed COPE's name on to several friends for assistance with their parents and feel confident they will not be disappointed with the support and services available.

JoAnn P. April 2007