



April 10, 2024

Dear Willow Award,

Sammie Wright and Donna Hayden came into our lives as caregivers for my Mom the late Elfreda Owens. They have been through her stages of dementia from combativeness, depression, confusion, sadness until finally settling into a comfortable routine. Not once did they waiver from their caring love and expert care.

Sammie and Donna have gone over and above staying with Mom during hospitalizations, rehab from a broken hip to beauty shop visits, grocery shopping, and doctors' appointments the family couldn't make. They have taken her on day drives, patio dinners, and making sure she and her wheelchair made it to her great-grandson's baseball games. If they couldn't attend, then they had her watch on their iPad or phone videos. Sammie and Donna would have Birthday and Christmas parties in her honor just to make her feel special and never ever letting her lost her dignity. It was never about them. It was always about my Mom.

These two came into our lives as caregivers and have become an extended part of our family. If there were ever two deserving people for your Willow Award, it would be these two special women.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jo Cochran,

Daughter of the late Elfreda Owens

For all questions, and to nominate your Central Arkansas Caregiver, please email
Nominations@SmithFamilyCares.com