

## **Darryll Rudy, Living with ALZ, from St. Johnsbury**

My name is Darryll Rudy and I'm asking you to please invest in long term home and community based care.

Like more than... **13,000**... other Vermonters over the age of 65, ...

I have Alzheimer's.

I live in St. Johnsbury with my partner, Barb. I want to spend the rest of my life there...with Barb... *in our home*. This choice is the most cost effective for us..... AND for the state.

While I'm still high functioning now, I know that Barb will have a heavy load as my disease progresses. Since my diagnosis both Barb and I have learned a lot about Alzheimer's. I know my cognition and all functions connected to my brain are going to slowly decline. In order to live the best life possible today, I need to know Barb and I will have the support we need for me to remain safely in my home or near St. Johnsbury. I don't know exactly what support I will need, but I do know Barb and I will need help.

The lifetime cost of Alzheimer's is estimated to be over \$400,000 with more than 70% being born by the family. Like so many other Vermonters we will rely on Choices for Care or other medicaid programs. I was shocked to learn the financial instability in this system and I ask you to do everything in your power to ensure these services remain a viable option for us.

I know our daily expenses have gone up. We have all been watching the price of eggs! To learn that long term care providers that accept medicaid didn't even get a cost of living increase in the budget this year is unacceptable!

I am asking you to please include an inflationary adjustment of 4% to all long term care reimbursement rates and to do everything in your power to ensure home and community based providers are able to support Vermonters like me into the future.