



**Making the best of it.** Not even COVID-19 visitor restrictions can keep Jim and Rosie from their daily dates through the windows of Anderson County Hospital's Residential Living Center.

# Love in the Time of COVID-19

## Couple finds creative way to stay connected

Every couple has their own special love story. Jim and Rosie Jordan are no exception, even in the middle of a global health crisis.

Jim, a resident at Anderson County Hospital's Residential Living Center, and Rosie have been married for 65 years. With three children, nine grandchildren, and many great grandchildren, they have experienced a wonderful life together.

Jim and Rosie were high school sweethearts who met and bonded over volleyball. They grew up in Osawatomie, Kansas, and have lived under the same roof since the early 1950s. That changed six months ago when Jim moved to the Residential Living Center.

When he first arrived, Jim was in a wheelchair and not walking. Because of encouragement from the staff, he soon was getting around on his own. This, in addition to Rosie's twice-a-day visits, really had Jim in good spirits.

When Jim and Rosie learned the COVID-19 pandemic would force the care community to implement a "No Visitors" policy in mid-March, both were heartbroken. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the virus' spread meant Jim couldn't have visitors. This meant Rosie could no longer spend time inside with her husband.

Not surprisingly, the new policy isn't keeping this loving couple apart.

"There are angels here. There are so many people working to keep us connected," Rosie said.

Part of that connection includes regular FaceTime calls between the couple with the help of staff. But the highlight of each day is their 'date.'

Every morning at 11 a.m., Rosie appears outside of Jim's window. He greets her with arms wide open for a virtual hug. Through his closed window, they share notes about family and what's happening in their lives, but most importantly, they share expressions of their love.

In March, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, Jim created a card for Rosie featuring a drawing of a four-leaf clover and the words: *I am lucky to have you. I can't remember a time when I didn't have you. This can't last too long. I love you, my honey.*

Although she can't hold his hand or touch his face, every day she sees Jim is a good day.

"We don't spend time complaining about our situation," Rosie said. "Jim always says, 'It is what it is, and you've got to make the best of it.' That is what we are doing. If being apart will save lives and keep others from getting sick, we are happy to do whatever it takes." 🍀