

Ever since I was a child, people said my mom and I were “twins.” We looked alike, and we were kindred spirits in many ways. We were as close as a mother and daughter could be. When she was diagnosed with cancer, I knew that, more than anything, I wanted her to see me get married.

Mom’s cancer was sudden and aggressive. We knew that what she needed was hospice care. I had interacted with Trellis staff a few times through a previous job as an EMT, and I always loved the sweet nurses I met. I knew Mom would be in good hands.

Once Mom entered inpatient care at the Hospice Home, the next step was finding a way to have a wedding that she could attend. Our ceremony went from months away, to weeks away, to days away. It wouldn’t be the day my fiancé and I had envisioned when we got engaged, but the most important thing was for my mother to be with me on my wedding day.



We began planning a wedding in the gardens of the Hospice Home. The volunteer coordinator, Kerri, helped me decide on the layout for the ceremony and reception, pick out décor, and all the little details that come with a wedding. Just as we had made these decisions for a ceremony at the end of the week, the medical staff pulled me into Mom’s room. They shut the door quietly, and my heart sank. Mom might not make it to Friday. We would have to hold the wedding today.

I felt so defeated, but I wasn’t facing this alone. The nurses each embraced me, and then leapt into action. In just a few hours, they had someone to play music during the ceremony, the chaplain to officiate, flowers, and all the decorations. All I had to do was get my dress and get ready.

We had a beautiful ceremony in the gardens behind the Hospice Home. I wore Mom’s wedding dress from over 20 years ago, and she was by my side when we said our vows. When she saw me in my dress, she smiled for the first time in days.

In a whirlwind month when everything felt out of my control, the Trellis staff were the first to ask me what I wanted. And when decision-making became too overwhelming, they handled everything so we could focus on what was most important – Mom was at our wedding. It was the most special moment of my life, and the Trellis staff made it happen. They were my guardian angels.

Sincerely,

Alexis Noveck Hampton

*Alexis is the daughter of Pam Noveck. Pam was a proud U.S. Army veteran and mother of three.*