

Meet Cheryl Edwards Cannon

Cheryl Edwards Cannon, Clark Foundation Board Trustee, knows exactly what it's like to care for aging parents. "I chose Clark for my parents after doing a search of options in the local area," she says. "It provided a residential and family atmosphere that echoed the lifestyle they enjoyed in their own home. When the time came to make the move, I did not have any doubts that this would be a good place for them."

As the only family member in Michigan, Cheryl took her responsibilities seriously. "I wanted mom and dad to know that they did not have to worry. I would take care of everything." That admirable sense of responsibility plunged her into the overwhelming world of insurance, finances, legal documents, and much more. In fact, Cheryl has channeled her experience into building Clear Path Choices, a consulting business she started to help families navigate the aging journey. "There was no one source I could go to," Cheryl says, "and that made the process so much more complicated. I want to eliminate that confusion for other families."

So why does Cheryl give her time to the board? "I believe that people should feel like someone is watching out for them, and caring for them. I get energized whenever I visit Clark. I like to play the piano, and sing with the residents, and get to know them as people. When I see their laughter and gratitude, then I know I am doing what I am supposed to do."

Being on the board also allows Cheryl to carry the Clark story to people who might want to volunteer, give or live there. "I have up-close and personal knowledge of what it's like to have

loved ones at Clark," she continues. "I can tell genuine stories because I have lived through it."



What is most important to Cheryl about Clark? Trust. "I knew in my heart that my parents would receive excellent care, but it was very hard for my head to walk away and let the staff do their jobs," she confesses. "They finally told me, 'you trusted us enough to choose Clark. So go home. Take care of yourself, and let us do our jobs.' They will never know how much that meant to my family and me. Through their wisdom, I was able to let go of the stressful daily care. That gave me more quality time with my parents, rather than caregiving time."

Thank you, Cheryl, for your dedicated service to Clark, not only through board responsibilities but also through your volunteer work. We appreciate everything you do!