

# The Story of Stewart's Caring Place Video

Final Script

*Mimi Surloff tells the Story of Stewart's Caring Place*

*Stewart's Caring Place Logo Fade-In*

*Pictures of Stewart Surloff and Family*

**Narrator (VO): Mimi Surloff**

Stewart was a podiatrist in Akron. He was also really active in the Akron community. He liked to give back.

**Narrator: Mimi Surloff**

He was diagnosed in February of 2001 with stage 3 lung cancer. It really just threw our world upside-down as it does for everyone that gets that diagnosis or any cancer diagnosis.

*Pictures of Stewart Surloff and Family*

**Narrator (VO): Mimi Surloff**

We were just kind of groping our way through the process, trying to find resources and none of our friends had been through such an experience and so it was all new. Throughout this journey Stewart kept saying "What do people do that don't have this built-in support system that we have because we really were fortunate in that way". We had wonderful friends and a community.

**Narrator: Mimi Surloff**

When he passed away, he left some money to the Akron Jewish Community Foundation.

*Pictures of Stewart's Caring Place Staff*

**Narrator (VO): Mimi Surloff**

It was a dream of Stewart's to have a facility that offered non-medical support services to the Akron Summit County community and so as a result of what we experienced throughout his cancer journey we realized that that need was really there and people didn't have it built into their lives the way we did.

We opened the doors of our facility in October of 2004. The biggest service or the support that I think Stewart's offers people on the cancer journey is a break from the medical regime and a comfortable non-threatening relaxed environment to come to. And there they can access a variety of services, including healing arts, which is very popular at Stewart's Caring Place.

Stewart's is a very holistic environment. We like to make sure we're addressing all areas of a person's life because they're all affected by cancer. Whether it's diet, nutrition, mental health, physical health, finances.

At Stewart's Caring Place we are very committed to providing our services free of charge.

**Narrator: Mimi Surloff**

We have in the past had times where our budgetary concerns have led us to question whether we should be looking for ways to charge. But we really don't want to do that and so we are fortunate and grateful that up to this point and hopefully into the future we will continue to have the funding.

*Pictures of Mimi at Stewart's Caring Place and participants*

**Narrator (VO): Mimi Surloff**

I am honored to sit at the front desk as a volunteer once a week and I am so touched by each person's story that comes in there and how much we can help them with what we offer. When you consider that one and three people are touched by cancer, you could imagine how many people walk through our doors, and you know we know there's so many people out there that don't even know about us that could be using our services.

**Narrator: Mimi Surloff**

Stewart would be thinking that this is the best thing going. I tell people all the time that he would have said what he went through was worth it to get what we got for all the people that we've been able to help.

*"So the butterfly is a symbol*

*Of our hope for new life*

*Our hope for wholeness and health"*

- *Stewart Surloff, 2001*