

12/31/2009

Bethlehem resident provides home care services to residents throughout Litchfield County

By: Robby Piazzaroli



PERSONAL HOME CARE — Seen here are Ms. Leeper and one of her three dogs, Macy.

BETHLEHEM - Susan Leeper, of Bethlehem, formerly of Watertown, has started a new business from her home in order to provide non-medical personal home care services to residents throughout Litchfield County.

Ms. Leeper has always been in the health care industry throughout her multiple careers but it was looking for a suitable care option for her elderly mother that motivated her to open Home Helpers.

She saw a need to help the families in her area that also find themselves looking for personal care for their own loved ones.

"My mom is an independent woman, and we'd like to keep it that way," said Ms. Leeper. "It's much easier and cheaper for families to keep people in their homes, living independently."

In cities, the elderly have public transportation options to make their lives a little easier. In this area, Litchfield County, it's much harder for people to get to stores, doctor's appointments, etc. Having a home care professional that provides companionship, bathing, meal preparation, dressing assistance, medication reminders, local transportation and light housekeeping provides a safe and healthy environment for someone struggling with living on their own.

Ms. Leeper has spent the past 23 years working in the health care industry in Connecticut and the past 10 years as a registered nurse at the University of Connecticut Health Center. She is also currently a karate instructor and teaches self-defense classes at Briarwood College, in Woodbury and New Milford.

Home Helpers – a franchised company – has three other operations in the state of Connecticut. Ms. Leeper works out of her home, in a professional office built by her husband, and covers home care in the towns of Thomaston, Watertown, Bethlehem, Terryville, Plymouth, Naugatuck, New Milford, Beacon Falls, Harwinton and most of Waterbury and Litchfield County.

"I really love this part of Connecticut. Between my kids and where I've worked, I'm pretty engrained in this area," said Ms. Leeper. "It feels nice to make a difference in the area where I live."

When Ms. Leeper began to look for employees for her company, over 400 people applied for positions. She explained that many of the people applying were very qualified for the position and some were even over-qualified. All employees go through a rigorous training program, with continuous classes and a thorough background check.

"The final step in hiring someone is I would have to be comfortable enough for that person to be in my mother's home," said Ms. Leeper. "Then I would know I could trust the person with anyone we are providing care for."

Ms. Leeper has her Companion Care Licensing Certificate and Home Helpers has now opened as a licensed business as of Friday, December 11, 2009. Prior to living in Bethlehem, Ms. Leeper, her husband, three children and three dogs, lived in Watertown for 10 years. Ms. Leeper stated that she counts herself lucky to be involved in such a rewarding job and looks forward to growing her business.

For more information on Home Helpers in Bethlehem, call 203-558-7065 or contact Ms. Leeper at SusanLeeper@HomeHelpers.CC.