



**Angela Smith  
Central Region**

**Category: Caring with Courage**

**Submitted by Care Coordinator Azmina Habib-Virji from our Central geography**

Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge that at the family's request, we have changed the names to maintain their privacy.

Angela is an exceptional caregiver. She is a 75-year-old mother of three adult children, two of which have sadly passed away from a rare genetic disease to which she also lost her husband.

Angela tirelessly looked after her younger son, Joe, who succumbed to the disease after 18 years, and more recently, her older son, John, who succumbed to this disease after a 10-year struggle. Angela advocated among social and health systems to ensure both her sons were well cared for and had access to the services they needed.

Despite struggling with her own medical issues, Angela always put her children's needs first. When John's condition deteriorated leaving him bed ridden, she wanted him to remain at home where she could care for him herself. She ensured all services and equipment were in place for him so that he could be comfortable among his loved ones.

While Angela knew that this condition would eventually take his life, she did not stop fighting for him and providing her love and support. Although suffering from a devastating condition, John's passing came suddenly, and Angela remained strong in her faith, taking comfort in the knowledge that her sons and husband are at peace.

Care coordinator Azmina shared that, "Angela has a strong faith and will continue to fight as a true Mama Bear for her precious children and grandchildren!"

**In speaking with Angela, her unwavering devotion shines through and it is clear that she truly embodies the notion of Caring with Courage. Amidst long-standing heartache, she is full of immense gratitude. It was an honour getting to know Angela and we thank her for allowing us to share her story with those that are also experiencing the impacts of a devastating hereditary disease.**