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CONTACT: Mary Lou Letina-Land  
Fox Run at Orchard Park,  
Director of Marketing & Sales  
PHONE: 716.662.5001  
EMAIL: mlland@foxrunorchardpark.com

## **Community Member's Near-Death Experience Gives New Meaning to Lifecare at Fox Run** Nursing Staff & Caregivers Team Up to Provide the Best Care

**ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK:** Facing near-death after an overlooked and missed dental infection, Fox Run at Orchard Park Community Member Mary Pat Donnelly received expert care from professionals across the entire continuum of care at the senior living community..

Mary Pat's tooth and jaw were bothersome for a few months and she knew something wasn't right. As time passed, Mary Pat grew weaker. She raised her concerns to Fox Run Staff Members, who scheduled multiple doctors appointments on behalf of Mary Pat, but those consultations were unsuccessful in determining the cause. Finally, Mary Pat was sent to ECMC Emergency Room where they then discovered Mary Pat had been suffering from osteomyelitis, an infection that causes dangerous inflammation of bone tissue, which required multiple emergency surgeries.

When Mary Pat was rushed to ECMC, the emergency team inserted a feeding tube, conducted multiple swallowing tests, and performed several procedures to remove the infection from her jaw bone. As the infection had spread to her entire jaw bone, Mary Pat became extremely weak due to loss of appetite from all the antibiotics. As a result, she lost over 40 pounds, and was unable to get out of bed without the assistance of a hooyer lift. Doctors worried Mary Pat would struggle to ever walk again.

Throughout everything, Mary Pat's daughter, Laura, vigorously sought proper medical care, as she attempted to determine the root cause of her mother's suffering while spending long hours on the phone with doctors and insurance providers. Laura visited as much as she could and also helped keep Mary Pat's spirits high.

About her experiences before turning to Fox Run, Mary Pat stated, "It was truly sad that I just fell through the cracks at doctors' offices... That I just kept getting sicker and sicker after my initial surgery."

Throughout the duration of her healing process, doctors, nurses, family, and friends stayed by Mary Pat's side ensuring she had everything she needed and wanted to complete a safe and comfortable recovery. At first, the process proved extremely hard, as Mary Pat lacked any appetite and could hardly move on her own. However, Fox Run Nursing Staff Members rallied around her, never giving up hope, or allowing Mary Pat to give up on her own rehabilitation.

When she could hardly stomach the thought of food, the nurses fed Mary Pat positive words of encouragement, sitting by her side until she managed to eat even a little. Their positivity instilled a level of self-confidence within Mary Pat that she hadn't felt since the initial dental procedure. Mary Pat attributes her being able to walk again and her greater recovery to the teams of nurses and aides of Fox Run.

Mary Pat further describes her experience with the staff, "Natasha, the nurse upstairs, went out on her break a couple of days after I arrived, and bought me my favorite soup to try and get me to eat. In fact, I had a few nurses and aides that really went above and beyond, and ran out and got me special things on their own personal lunch breaks. I really appreciated that."

Other Fox Run caregivers who helped Mary Pat along her recovery journey include the dieticians and dietary staff who tried many different methods to make eating as comfortable as possible, as well as Mary Pat's own family members. Mary Pat's three brothers took turns coming into town and visiting her often. When they weren't visiting, her brothers called in hopes of cheering her up, even bringing her cherished book club sessions to her over the phone in order to give her something to look forward to. Even though her daughter lives out of town, she never truly left her mother's side, and was always in constant communication with Fox Run Staff Members and Mary Pat's team of doctors.

Now, and finally, in a beautiful independent living apartment at Fox Run, Mary Pat is feeling back to her usual self and thanks to the Fox Run at Orchard Park Health Center Staff, which provides a variety of care and services across its Lifecare Continuum. The Clement & Margot Ip Rehabilitation Center and the amazing therapy team, with on-campus facilities provided Mary Pat with a specialty walker, and are proud to report that she is up and walking on her own.



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Mary Pat is also talking very well and will continue to attend speech therapy. Returning to her healthy self means she is now back to enjoying time with friends and even continues to play cards and Bingo. (She brags she has won the last several weeks!)

The Fox Run Health Center Community Members have turned into Mary Pat's lifelong friends, whom she met while recovering in Skilled Nursing.

Mary Pat is thankful for all of the Health Center staff and care providers at Fox Run, ECMC surgeons and staff, and encourages everyone who is considering their senior living options to strongly consider Fox Run at Orchard Park, exclaiming, "Skilled Nursing was such a close-knit family to me. Everyone was so helpful, supportive, and always in my corner rooting for me."

Fox Run at Orchard Park helps seniors and their families plan for each individual's next steps—wherever their journey may lead. The multiplex Health Center at Fox Run has assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing available, should your needs change. The Health Center also features a fully equipped, state-of-the-art physical and occupational therapy center and on-staff medical doctor. A podiatrist, dentist, psychologist, psychiatrist, and massage therapist are available to meet one-on-one with Community Members as well. As a collaborative and communicative team, health professionals at Fox Run combine to provide expert-level Lifecare.

To learn more about the outstanding care, including Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing, you or a loved one receives as a Community Member at Fox Run at Orchard Park, visit our website [foxrunorchardpark.com](http://foxrunorchardpark.com).

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Fox Run at Orchard Park is the premier Continuing Care Retirement Community in the Southtowns. Independent Living Community Members at Fox Run, should they need it, have access to on-site assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing, with no increase in monthly costs when you choose our most popular Lifecare plan. Fox Run is home to a multiplex Health Center providing ample space for a state-of-the-art in-patient rehabilitation center for our extensive therapy programs. All facilities, amenities, apartments, and patio homes are located on a picturesque, well-maintained 54 acre campus in the heart of Orchard Park.

[foxrunorchardpark.com](http://foxrunorchardpark.com)

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For more information about this event and Fox Run at Orchard Park, please contact Director of Marketing & Sales Mary Lou Letina-Land by phone at 716.662.5001, or email at [mland@foxrunorchardpark.com](mailto:mland@foxrunorchardpark.com).