



*Pictured left to right:  
Crystal Carswell, CNA  
Joyce Curtis  
Julia Faber, RN  
Katlyn Long, RN*

# A GOOD EXPERIENCE FROM A **BAD FALL**

A little over a year ago, Joyce Curtis was dealing with some water in her basement when she tripped over a rug and broke her hip.

“It was frightening,” she says. “My husband Doyle was there, thank goodness, and my daughter came over, but they weren’t able to safely get me up the stairs, so the paramedics came.”

The paramedics took Joyce to Rochelle Community Hospital for evaluation. Joyce needed immediate surgery, so they rushed her to a neighboring town.

“I had surgery a few days later and then was sent

back to Rochelle for swing bed,” she says. “We live here in Rochelle, so it was very convenient.”

Joyce spent the next 19 days recovering from her surgery—she had three screws put in her hip—in the transitional care (aka: swing bed) program at Rochelle Community Hospital. Her experience there wasn’t quite what Joyce had anticipated. It was far, far better.

“I almost hate to say it,” she says, “but there were times I felt like I was living in a five-star hotel. Of course, I wouldn’t recommend anyone breaking their hip... but it was almost like a vacation for me.”

Joyce says the employees and staff spared no effort to make her feel taken care of. "My experience there was just great. I can't say enough good things about the care I received. Everything—the care, the people, the nurses, the CNAs, and the food—was phenomenal. The minute I rang my bell, someone would be there."

The swing bed program was as good as home for Joyce—if not better. "I was never bored," she says. "My husband was always there with me, our daughters, too. We had the chaplain over and lots of neighbors and people from our church would come visit. They also said that I could have anyone over for lunch and we could play cards or have friends come up and play a board game, anything I wanted to make me feel at home."

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— JOYCE CURTIS, SWING BED PATIENT

The food service was a highlight for Joyce; it made her feel even more taken care of. "There was a menu to order from and Doyle could choose from it, too. If I wanted a cookie at 8:30 at night, all I had to do was order one. Come to find out, one of the ladies who works in the cafeteria grew up in the same neighborhood as I did."

As good as the care was, Doyle also had the chance to go above and beyond: "We had an anniversary while I was there," says Joyce. "Doyle went and ordered food from our favorite restaurant and brought plates from home so we didn't have to celebrate with paper plates."

A year later, Joyce is doing well. "I no longer need a walker or a cane. I can do almost everything I used to be able to," she says. "And I still feel connected to the people who took care of me. At Walmart the other day, there was a night nurse from my time in swing bed. She came right up to me and gave me a hug. There were personal touches everywhere. Everyone was so kind. And that was so helpful as I was healing."



## Is Swing Bed Right for You?

Swing bed is short-term care provided in the same manner as a skilled nursing facility. In other words, if an illness or surgery no longer requires a hospital stay but does require the level of care a skilled nursing home provides, the swing bed program at Rochelle Community Hospital is a good option.

The goal of the Swing Bed Program is to enhance the recovery process for a safe return home.

RCH physicians and RCH case management coordinators evaluate your case to determine if swing bed is the best option for you.

To learn more, you can reach Case Management by calling **815-562-2181, ext 2590 or 2593.**