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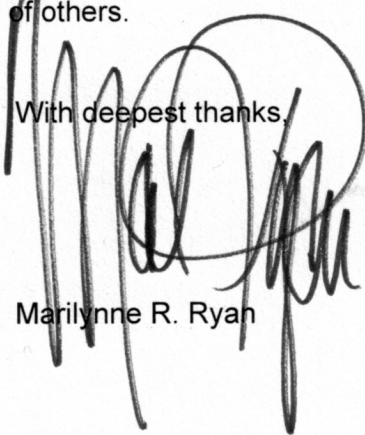
Dear Eilon,

My heartfelt thanks to you for the immense care and sensitivity you displayed in every interaction you had with our family in your research project at my mother's long-term care residence. You were so forthcoming and professional in all respects with our family, and so insightful about the residents' needs, our needs as a family and the various sensitivities involved. Throughout the study, you were committed to and actively protected the confidentiality of Mom and our family. The time you spent observing and interacting with us, or with Mom when she would approach you, was never burdensome for any of us; and for Mom I know it was a welcome gift to see a responsive smile or word or understanding gesture on your part. We trusted you completely, and you were at all times kind, respectful, and responsible in your interactions with us and with my mother.

As I am sure you recall, Mom experienced substantial sleeping problems during the study; noticing her tiredness during the daytime you decided to conduct a full-night observation to learn about the sleeping problems of residents with dementia; I was so impressed with your willingness as a researcher to delve deeper to find the answers to the questions you were exploring. Toward the end of the data collection, when Mom had to be hospitalized and ultimately moved to a different care setting, you took the time to visit Mom at her new residence to see her for the last time and say goodbye; we are forever grateful to you for that kindness. And, as you promised to do, you shared the summary of the study findings with us, although much time had elapsed since your research had been completed, and Mom had sadly passed away.

You have an *amazing* way with people, Eilon, and I know that you will do great things in your future and make a difference in the field of aging. I believe your talents are extraordinary. Although you were most appreciative of our willingness as a family to allow you access to Mom, it is our family that feels indebted to you for your work in this vital area. I am confident that your study will contribute to enhancing the quality of care of older adults with memory loss. Although Mom probably never understood who you were, or what you were doing, I know she would have loved being a part of something so important for others, as she was a kind woman herself who was the first to do a kindness and make a difference in the lives of others.

With deepest thanks,



Marilynne R. Ryan