



BetterOptions
Ventilator Care Adult Family Home
15214 NE 25th Circle, Vancouver, WA, 98684 (360) 607-8028

*Dedicated to Quality of Life
for Individuals with Disabilities*

Home ~ Comfort ~ Excellent Care

TESTIMONIAL - by the family of a four-year resident-patient at [Better Options Ventilator Care AFH](#):

On April 26, 2010, we received a 3:00 a.m. phone call from [Legacy Emanuel](#) ICU stating that our 28 year old son had been admitted with a "bad bleed in a bad area of his brain." They said he had 3 to 5 days to live and that we should come to the hospital as soon as we could. He had been playing video games with his best friend when they had decided to break briefly to visit a corner convenience store for snacks. On the walk back, he silently fell backwards and hit the back of his head on the edge of sidewalk/street curb. His nose bleed started about 20 minutes after the accident and the ambulance was called at that time. He was then transported to Legacy Emanuel within the first hour of the accident. Brain surgery commenced about an hour and one half after the accident.

Red blood destroys any brain cells that it touches. Once the dura (blood-brain barrier) is broken red blood penetrates into the brain tissue. In this case, red blood destroyed one half of the pons and 20% of the cerebellum. This effectively put our son into a state known as "[locked-in syndrome](#)", where only eye movements remain possible.

Our son had been a leader among his friends, bringing joy whenever he entered our home. When he joined us for family dinners and holidays, he brought the excitement level up. After hugging everyone, he would sit down at the piano and begin playing his latest compositions until we were all gathered and ready for our festivities to begin.

He worked daily at a film studio in Portland, Oregon composing music for short films, silent movies, and video games into the night. Each week, he played on two different adult soccer teams. Everyone appeared to love and respect him; he has so many friends. His music remains, beautiful and from the heart.

When we arrived at the hospital, we were told that if they operated immediately to relieve the pressure then there was a chance that they could save him. So we gave the go-ahead and they operated. On the 5th day after the accident, they took him off the ventilator to see if he would stop breathing, or breathe on his own. He did breath on his own; the medical staff were surprised that he did not stop breathing at all. He took six big breaths per minute, which they said was not necessarily a *normal thing* to do. But before the accident he was so physically strong and active, playing soccer twice a week. Consequently, he was processing plenty of oxygen, and had no additional problems. This led the health professionals to believe that it was worth continuing to save him by giving him a [tracheotomy](#). And he stayed at Legacy Emanuel for about ten weeks before being transferred to [Vibra](#), another hospital in Portland, Oregon, specialized for medically complex adults.

However, our son also needed respiratory care, physical therapy, communication rehabilitation, and very personal [long-term care](#) services. And so we began searching for something more appropriate much closer to home only to discover that not many places in Vancouver, Washington offer tracheostomy care services. Rejecting one other option that provides a ratio of one RN to every 12-20 patients, we next discovered [Better Options Ventilator Care](#), an adult family home that provides a ratio of at least one RN and one CNA on-duty at all times for up to six resident-patients. We are very pleased with what the Better Options staff are doing for our son. They keep him very clean, talk to him, and they treat him with respect. Each day, they also transfer him from bed into a specially designed wheelchair, set up the Eye Gaze computer communication system, and find programs on television that he enjoys watching. On especially warm and sunny days they also take him outside to sit for a bit beneath a gazebo overlooking the beautiful floral grounds and the lively activity of nature, various pets, and other animals.

Vigilant, caring nurses at Better Options have also caught any infections that he has developed and have provided treatments immediately.

Nowhere else in Vancouver, Washington would even begin to cover our needs as close to what we receive at Better Options. We feel like their nurses, and some of the other patients, too, are practically family.

About [Better Options Ventilator Care](#):

With respect, comfort, security and compassion we provide:

- Ventilation support
- A unique, homelike setting
- 24-hour assisted care
- Well-balanced meals and snacks
- Caregivers trained specifically in ventilation care
- Computer and Internet access, pets, homelike activities and programs

[Better Options Ventilator Care Adult Family Home](#) provides ventilator-dependent patients with long-term care in a home-like environment serviced by a staff of Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, and Certified Nurse Assistants.

Description

At Better Options Ventilator Care Adult Family Home we provide homelike atmosphere, hospital-level ventilator care, skilled nursing staff and state-of-the-art medical equipment.

We strive to enrich our ventilator-dependent resident's environment by infusing their daily life with meaning, joy and pleasure. We nurture residents with warmth and closeness of our friendship and care.

We assist residents to function at their highest possible level despite their physical and medical needs.

LOCATION:

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