

# The Power of My Voice: Gladys Hoffler

This is a copy of a letter I sent to a groundskeeper here at Heath's Village with no response (He knows me personally). He saw someone that he thought was me, and that he'd be here on Monday (well it was Monday and they came and just cut the grass). I'm at Heath Village the Meadows, 451 Schooleys Mountain Road, Hackettstown New Jersey, 07840. My name is Gladys Hoffler, and I am 89 Years old.

Dear Kevin,

It is Monday July 29th, and I am sitting out here on our neat Patio. Yes it's pesty me, Gladys Hoffler from Balsam B12, and working in the yard brings me the utmost joy. Which I am sure you are aware of, due to all of my requests, I'm so limited now from being in a wheelchair. This past weekeend, I put in two plus hours, cleaning out the area, and moving nine chairs, putting them where they belong while I'm in my chair. Residents have company and move everything around and don't put things back. Some not under covers, so when it rains the cushions then get soaked, and I put them on the edge so the water drains out. I come out here everyday been 1:30 and 4 pm, and I tried to do something to keep our patio pretty. I'm the only one who waters the flowers, as noone else does, the hose is always where i left it, so I know that to be true. I have a difficult time manuevering the hose in my chair, as it is so heavy. When i woke up Sunday morning, my shoulder ached from moving the hose around.

Cathy S from activities ad helped pick up paper plates and napkins from a picnic in July (or from guests that didn't clean after themselves). There is a large branch on the ground, near the Balsam dining room. It's been there for two months, and still hasn't been picked up. One of your men put a weedkiller spray on some weeds, it's okay for little plants, but the big ones stand tall and dead. A living green weed, looks better than a dead one. I have gone around pulling weeds that I can reach from my chair. Then I was pulling the dead ones by the tree, only to find it had pricklers and I had to leave them. I'm really upset my Bleeding heart was sprayed and died, the one you brought down from my apartment in Evergreen. I was joking with a friend that I should be put on the payroll, as I am the only one who takes care of our Courtyard. My love has always been working the Garden, and I will continue until I can't. I can only do so much from my chair.

I can't end this note without a few requests; Firstly, to have someone pull the large dead plants that I cannot reach, I know you have a long handle tool to pull weeds. Would you happen to have a spare one I could use? Something to put the weeds in, after they are pulled as well. Would it be possible to replace dead snowball bushes by the white birch trees, with two bleeding hearts (I'd like to dedicate them to my Son in Law who passed away this month, I'd be more than happy to pay for them). Also, to replace mine which was sprayed and died, we also planted plants from residents that were gifts for our Garden, that were sprayed dead. Now I'll ask for even more if possible, would you happen to have a hose like the pocket hose like they advertised, which would be much easier for me to handle (the one we have is good, albeit too heavy for

me). I could use a pair of gardening gloves, if I had these three (gloves, hose, and weedpuller), I'd be as happy as a pig in mud. I would continue to work in our patio for as long as I can (age 89+), I'm outside almost everyday and I truly care for how the Patio is taken care of.

I hope you don't think I'm some sort of nut, but simply as someone who enjoys my yard, and this is my last home. They have taken so much away from me by downsizing to a small room, and now this is my forever home. Oh one more thing, is it possible to put a hook on one of the tall beams to hang a shadepuller, right now it is dangling and someone could get hurt.

Thank you,

Gladys Hoffler

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