

# DARE TO DREAM



Everyone Meet Jean! Jean is an 86 year old former first grade teacher, who LOVES to keep busy! Jean and her husband Orville moved in last December, and have adapted greatly! This past month, I have noticed Jean always walking and tracking her steps, so I started to get an idea! Every year Parkersburg holds an annual Remembrance Run for the EF-5 Tornado and Coach Ed Thomas, this is a 5K run or walk. I went and asked Jean if she would want to do the walk with me?! I know I have been wanting to get back into doing these things, and I knew for a fact she would enjoy it, so of course she said “YES”. I went and signed us up and told Jean when it was, so then she started walking more and more, practicing daily for her 3 mile walk around Parkersburg.

The day of the race, we got registered, got our t-shirts and started walking up to the start line, of course, our little Jean had to say hello to all the kids and check out all the babies! At 8:30am, we started, it was off to a slow start, we were eventually in last place, but that was okay. As we were walking, Jean loved asking questions about where the tornado hit, and loved looking at all of the new houses that were built. She was cheered on by fellow runners and walkers and even bystanders, and to do her part, she picked up every stick she saw that was in the road, so no one would trip. The closer to the finish we got, the faster she got, and it was hard for me to keep up walking! At the end we finished on the track and she had all of the people in the stands cheering her on! When we finished, she had the biggest smile on her face and got a pat on the back from everyone on our way out! I know for a fact that she will never forget this day and I can tell you either will I.

**JEAN**