



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

LEFT: Diane Williams hugs Brett Williams as he completes rehabilitation treatment. **RIGHT:** Diane and Brett Williams prior to his stroke.

Brett/From page 6
trach, then his feeding tube is another big surgery, which has to be moved to his stomach,” Diane says. “And the way they were acting towards me was, ‘you better make sure he’d want this

because this is what he’s going to have for the rest of his life.”
Good news arrived midway through July, when Brett’s trach was removed, followed by the removal of his feeding tube in August. Doctors said he would likely

struggle with swallowing, but Diane says he’s been successfully eating a full diet without problems since September.
Brett’s doctors felt he was a good candidate for inpatient treatment at the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute at Abbott

Northwestern Hospital. He completed treatment at Abbott for a month before transferring to the Golden Valley location until December.
By the end of his rehab treatment, Brett and Diane were hoping he could return to their

house, but Diane and family ultimately decided that he would have better success transitioning to an assisted living facility before making his way back home.
That’s when Diane toured Eden Oak Assisted Living in Eden Prairie and found Brett’s home away from home. While both he and Diane hoped for a homecoming, they felt at peace knowing he would be taken care of by a team of caregivers that truly looked out for his best interests.

wheelchair.
Brett has been a member of the Stevie Ray’s Improv Company troupe at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres for over 25 years. When he wasn’t making people laugh on stage, he could be found giving tours at the Wabasha Street Caves, hosting weekly trivia at Tuttle’s Eat Bowl Play in Hopkins, and working as a merchandising specialist for Best Buy, where he was employed for 36 years.

“We didn’t have a lot of time. We had to make a decision and I said ‘I have a great feeling from the staff and everything’ and he said ‘I trust you.’” Diane says. “So, it has turned out to be a really good place. There’s really good people working here and they’re very kind and they take really good care of Brett. If I have to have him away from home for something like this, this is one of the places you’d want to have your loved one.”

Just recently, Brett began a new rehabilitation program at North Memorial Health that will allow him to work on functional goals, such as walking and light exercise, with assistance from robotic equipment. This will bring him one step closer to mobile independence without a

While Brett has yet to return to his “normal” routine, he and his wife remain optimistic that he’ll pick up right where he left off once rehabilitation is complete.
Once Brett is further into his recovery, Both he and Diane hope to use this experience to help others going through a similar situation.

“I just think his story is inspirational in that they told me the first few days that he was the sick-est person in that whole hospital and he was not going to survive and then he’s continued to just defy every odd that they put in front of him and told me from the beginning,” Diane says. “So I think that we could be a good source of inspiration for people newly going through this or caregivers going through this. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel, eventually.”

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