My sister Liz, who is mentally handicapped, was removed from her group home of 26 years because of pending medical conditions. She has had to move to a Nursing home, something that a 46 year old should never have to do. She has limited mental capacity and doesn't understand the move and has been suffering a little depression since the move from her home.

The nursing home tried to cheer her up by offering a contest for Valentine's Day King and Queen, one penny equaled one

vote and since this was all happening, not in Michigan, but in Southern Illinois you could vote often and early.

I happen to be heading that way and realized I could take pennies with me. So I sent out a simple e-mail request to a few of my LMC colleagues asking if they had any penny's in their pockets to donate. Did they rise to the challenge? I filled two full candy jars of pennies and my sister won the contest with no question.

The Nursing home staff gave her a crown, had to bow to her as they passed by her table or bed, and couldn't do any kind of treatment or work on her unless they kissed her forehand first. I believe she enjoyed the treatment as our other sister Terri, said she had never seen Liz smile so big in her life.

The Nursing home was thrilled with the money we raised, \$79 (in penny's mind you) for Liz. And, we got

the LMC logo and name out there to an entire community in Southern Illinois, Effingham. They loved LMC.

It totally made my sister's day. Liz was in the hospital just prior to winning. When I told her I had lots of pennies and I thought she would win, she kept telling the doctors that she had to be out by Valentine's Day because she had a crown to wear and a party to attend. She had something exciting to look forward to which was totally possible because our LMC staff had pennies in their pockets and were willing to part with them, for her, a person they didn't even know.

Sharon Metcalf



