

# Area Agencies on Aging

In  
Action

August 2009



PASSPORT consumer Dorothy with home health aide Nicola

When Dorothy fell at 2:00 a.m. in her old apartment, she remained on the floor for several hours until someone happened to find her. With her health continuing to fail, her son, Kenny, asked her to move in with him and receive in-home care.

“If it weren’t for PASSPORT, I’d be in a nursing home,” Dorothy said.

Her fall broke several of the bones in her right arm, which haven’t healed properly. Suffering from diabetes, she cannot walk more than a few steps, and she needs help bathing, dressing and with household chores. She also has an emergency response system (ERS) button that she can access 24 hours a day. She explained that her son works full time, so he provides support in the evening. He would have to leave his job to provide the daily extensive care she needs.

Since April 2005, PASSPORT has offered Dorothy an alternative to nursing home care. “Being home means being free,” she said. She enjoys watching television, using the internet and talking with her home health aides.

“PASSPORT is wonderful, and I think it’s tragic that everybody that needs it won’t be able to get it,” she said, when asked about the recent budget cuts.

“It’s a tragedy,” she repeated, “that someone like me would end up in a nursing home, costing more money, when they could be at home.”

The annual cost of nursing facility care in Ohio is \$56,492\*. Dorothy receives PASSPORT care that helps her stay safely in her son’s home at an annual cost of \$27,046. This is an annual Medicaid savings of \$29,446 when compared to the cost of nursing facility placement.

\*Estimated in 2009, not offset by client liability and not including Medicaid card services.

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