



September 30, 2010

### **AAA 3 | Bridging the Gap**

**Lima, OH** - Mary C. is a very proud and independent 84 year old who lives in a senior housing complex in Bluffton. She states, "The older I get the more outspoken I am. My mother would have been so proud of me." With a laugh, Mary also admits that when she turn 85 in August, she may be unbearable to be around!

Mary has been on the PASSPORT program since May of 2001. She has a diagnosis of Diabetes, Congestive Heart Failure and Blindness. As she aged and her eyesight decreased, she moved from her home to an apartment and was enrolled on the PASSPORT program. Mary has supportive family but they do not live close and have always worried for her safety. They are now relieved knowing she is in a safe environment with help coming in on a regular basis to assist with her needs.

Mary had a fairly stable health condition but was falling frequently with numerous visits to the emergency room. Family and doctors were talking about possible Nursing Home admission. The [Area on Agency 3](#) Care Manager, Julie Rhodes, attended a doctor's appointment with consumer and family and spoke about the additional services that Mary could receive to try to stay in the community. Services were increased and since that time, Mary has remained in her home. That appointment was 9/17/2004.

Mary is assisted by Personal Care Aides Monday through Friday, the Emergency Response System and transportation to-and-from dialysis 3 x each week. An RN also assists Mary with medication due to her poor eyesight. PASSPORT provided her with a talking glucometer so she could complete her own blood sugar checks. The cost of her care for a year is \$35,000, far below the annual cost of a nursing home placement.

Mary states "I have always been treated with respect by the people coming in to help me, from my Care Manager, aides and drivers. That means a lot, and without this program I would not be able to remain in my home."

#### **About the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging | o4a**

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a), a nonprofit organization, is a statewide network of agencies that provide services for older adults, their families and caregivers, as well as advocate on their behalf. The Association addresses issues that have an impact on the aging network, provides services to members, and serves as a collective voice for Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Equal Opportunity Employer/Provider. For more information visit, [www.ohioaging.org](http://www.ohioaging.org).

#### **o4a Contact**

Larke Recchie, Executive Director

614/481-3511

Email: [Recchie@ohioaging.org](mailto:Recchie@ohioaging.org)