

Area Agencies on Aging

In
Action

July 2009



As Ohio's economic crisis forces cuts in human services appropriations, caring people are creatively using meager resources to provide home and community based services to Ohioans who want and need them.

From southeastern Ohio, this is the story of Anna, who had spent two years in a nursing facility and wanted to come home. But how? Her low income and lack of assets qualified her for Medicaid. She had no home to come to, no clothing to speak of, none of the everyday things and supportive people she needed to set up housekeeping. Yet, she longed for privacy. She wanted pets, houseplants, and to write poetry.

Staff members from the Buckeye Hills Area Agency on Aging, pictured with Anna in the photo above, used Ohio's HOME Choice and PASSPORT programs to help Anna move from the nursing facility to her own place. Having Ohio's HOME Choice program to pay her security deposit, first month's rent and utility fees and to buy some initial groceries and clothes gave Anna the start she needed. A caring case manager makes sure the PASSPORT program gives Anna nursing staff visits and assistance with taking medications, home-delivered meals, people who provide housekeeping services, and an emergency response system if she needs immediate help.

Now Anna is free to write poetry, journal her thoughts, and maintain her pets, houseplants and privacy. Of the staff members at the Area Agency on Aging who made her move happen, she says, "I just love these girls to death."

Anna's annual PASSPORT service plan cost is \$11,161, a savings of \$45,331, when compared to the average annual cost of \$56,492* in a skilled nursing facility.

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

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