

Area Agencies on Aging

In
Action

June 2009



“Look at us...we’re home!” Thelma “Joyce” Johnson credits Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2, and PASSPORT for making it possible for her and her husband of 26 years to enjoy the independence and dignity of living at home. Her husband, Donald Ashley, who is also a PASSPORT consumer, is a dialysis patient and double amputee. Joyce has myasthenia gravis. When a nurse said they had to go to a nursing facility, Area Agency on Aging staff explained their rights, and PASSPORT provided the support to stay home.

“I’m not scared anymore,” Joyce explained. When a need arises she calls on her case manager, Carolyn Heinz (pictured to the right of the couple). Carolyn manages a variety of services to keep Joyce and Don at home, including home-delivered meals, personal care assistance, and medical supplies and equipment.

Joyce knows that even when PASSPORT cannot help directly, her case manager can guide her. Carolyn directed Joyce to appropriate agencies so that she could advocate to increase Don’s dialysis and reduce frequent weekend hospitalizations. Don feels better and it saves Medicaid dollars. With information from Carolyn, and PASSPORT support for Don in her absence, Joyce was able to have cataract surgery on both eyes, and she happily shows off new dentures. “I feel like there is a huge team of people behind me and Don, all starting with the Area Agency on Aging,” Joyce said.

The annual cost of nursing facility care in Ohio is \$56,492*. Joyce receives PASSPORT services that help her stay safely in her own home at an annual cost of \$22,919. Don’s annual cost is \$19,980. This is an annual Medicaid savings of \$70,085 when compared to a nursing facility cost of \$112,984 for the couple.

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

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