

# Area Agencies on Aging

## In Action

October 2009



When 77 year old diabetic Sylvia Sparks fell and fractured her left leg in October 2008, she did not expect the sequence of events that occurred. After severe complications from surgery to repair the fracture, her leg had to be amputated. She ended up in a nursing facility to recover. Her family did not think she would ever be able to return to her apartment again. Prior to her fall, she had been receiving assistance from the PASSPORT Home Care Program but was disenrolled after several months when it appeared she would not be able to return home.

But Sylvia had other ideas. She was determined to go home so she re-applied for the PASSPORT Program. Her case manager, pictured above with Sylvia, arranged for Sylvia to receive personal care twice a day to assist with care needs and fix breakfast and arranged for a hot home delivered meal for lunch, a nutritional supplement drink, and an Emergency Response System. The case manager also worked with a physical therapist to obtain equipment to allow Sylvia to transfer in and out of bed herself and arranged for a nurse to come weekly to treat a wound. The case manager communicated with Sylvia's daughter frequently to answer questions and ensure the family was aware of the service plan being put in place to meet Sylvia's needs.

Sylvia came home to live on April 11, 2009.

The cost of her service plan is \$25,030 per year compared to \$56,492\* per year had she remained in the nursing home, a savings of \$31,462.

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

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