

# Area Agencies on Aging

## In Action

April 2007

Three years ago, Ronald Bingle fell and injured his spinal cord. The accident left him unable to hold his body erect, walk or use his left arm.



A library custodian for 25 years, Mr. Bingle, 65, used to polish floors and shovel snow. Today, he is bed-bound but is beginning physical therapy that he hopes will enable him to move with a walker.

Mr. Bingle stayed in several nursing homes; then was on PASSPORT before he returned to a nursing home for rehabilitation following surgery. When an assessment identified him as a candidate for the PASSPORT Home First program, he was able to return to his apartment, with its Pittsburgh Steelers posters.

He has only praise for the PASSPORT aides who come for two hours twice a day, seven days a week, to provide all his personal care. "I couldn't do it without them," he said, with a smile. "If it wasn't for PASSPORT, I'd have to be in a nursing home." He also receives transportation to medical appointments, an emergency response device, incontinence supplies and home-delivered meals.

"Mr. Bingle does not have any family caregivers," said his Area Agency on Aging case manager Cathy Downton. "His aides are like his family and he is very grateful to them."

Mr. Bingle's annual service plan cost is \$32,836.32, a little more than half the cost of a nursing facility. He has a Medicaid liability and pays \$346 a month toward the cost of his care.

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