

Area Agencies on Aging

In Action

February 2008

Patricia says the PASSPORT program keeps her from having to enter a nursing home due to her chronic lung and bladder diseases. She began receiving PASSPORT services in March 2005 when her daughter recommended the program and brought a care assessor to the house.



Through the Area Agency on Aging, PSA 8, and her PASSPORT case manager Teresa Porter, a Licensed Social Worker and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, (*shown with Patricia in the photograph*), Patricia receives the services and durable medical equipment she needs to live at home. They include emergency response services, home delivered meals, assistance with prescriptions, monitoring of her need for oxygen, and daily personal care and household chore support.

Patricia's PASSPORT case manager developed her care plan and service arrangements and helped arrange for a hospital bed and a transport chair to assist Patricia with mobility.

Patricia's family members help as much as they can. Her husband, Ivan, continues to grocery shop and pay the bills and, most importantly, provide companionship. Her son, Kenneth, who lives in Florida, checks in with her daily. Patricia's daughters, Leighann and Bonnie, are both able to continue working full-time and are raising children of their own. Participating in the PASSPORT program gives Patricia and her family peace of mind. She says that even her dog, Dylan, gets attached to those who come to care for her.

Last year Patricia's annual PASSPORT service plan cost was \$15,222, a savings of \$40,529 when compared to the average annual cost of \$55,751 for skilled nursing facility care.