

# Area Agencies on Aging

## In Action

July 2008

Bill and his wife celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. He says the years have been wonderful and that he could not continue to celebrate them at home without the help of the PASSPORT Program. The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., AAA 4, administers the PASSPORT program in Northwest Ohio.



When it became clear to Bill and his wife in January 2006 that they needed help, Bill was being treated for bulging discs in his lower spine, sciatic pain, and the effects of a 1990 stroke. He also deals daily with diabetes and vision difficulties. Today, Bill receives the services he needs to stay safely at home. His PASSPORT services include personal care from a home health aide, home delivered meals, emergency response services, durable medical equipment items, and medical transportation. A Health Department nurse monitors his medical concerns.

Together, Bill and his PASSPORT care manager, Shawn Waidelich (pictured with Bill), developed a care plan that includes the services he needs along with some respite care so that his spouse can run errands and attend religious activities. Because of the intact care within his home, Bill's several surgeries in the past few years required only minimal rehabilitative stays. He reports that a ramp installed in front of his home provides safer transport and modifications in his bathroom allow for more independence as well.

Bill and his wife appreciate and are very satisfied with the care he receives. Bill's wife states, "PASSPORT has made it so I can do necessary things and have the peace of mind that he's safe while I'm doing those things."

The average annual cost of a skilled nursing facility is \$55,751. Bill's annual cost of PASSPORT services at home is \$11,396. This is a \$44,355 cost savings to the community but a priceless personal savings to Bill and his family.

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