

Area Agencies on Aging

In
Action

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When Alma C. of Springfield turned 96 this month, she did so in the company of loving family members and in the comfort of her granddaughter's home.

Alma was a nursing facility resident for 3½ years before moving to her granddaughter Patty's home in October 2009. Although her many family members visited Alma daily, Patty knew Alma would prefer to live at home with her, even though dementia kept Alma from saying so. Alma needed assistance with everyday activities, but she did not require 24-hour nursing care.

After a friend told the family about PASSPORT, an assessor visited Alma in the nursing home. "The assessor was so comforting and encouraging as she told me about our options," says Patty. "I did not realize so much support was available. She made it easy to bring her home." Patty says of Alma's case manager, "She is always warm and kind. Nothing is left unresolved. It gives me a sense of confidence that we made the right decision."

Patty is comfortable leaving Alma in the care of her morning aide when she leaves for work. Family members stay with Alma midday and help her with lunch. An aide returns in the afternoon and family members stay with Alma until Patty returns. On Sundays, an aide provides care so that Patty can attend church. Through Visiting Physicians, Alma receives medical support from a nurse practitioner, who has been able to reduce her medications.

Alma's PASSPORT services enable her family to provide the needed 24-hour supervision at home, at an annual cost of \$33,010. This is an annual Medicaid savings of \$23,482 when compared to the average of \$56,492* for skilled nursing facility care.

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

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