

UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
WEBSTER COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Joyce was a Senior Companion volunteer, serving the frail and homebound elderly in Webster County for eight years in the 1990's. Arthritis in her knees forced her retirement from the program. After an unsuccessful knee replacement surgery and heart problems, Joyce found herself on a waiting list to become a recipient of services through the Senior Companion Program. Imagine her welcomed surprise when her assigned volunteer was actually a lady she, herself, trained years earlier. "Mary" even shadowed Joyce, visiting clients as part of her orientation to the program. Joyce said Mary was an "angel sent to her." She said she knows she would not be in her home today and probably in a nursing home, without Mary's services. She said Mary comes to her home five days a week, four hours a day, helping her transfer from wheelchair to couch/bathroom, preparing her meals, and assisting with housekeeping. She said what she enjoys the most is her "company." Joyce said "Before Mary came it was just me and my little doggy....now we both have a new friend....well, I call her my sister." Mary said although she is the same age as her client, she enjoys helping her with tasks she cannot do. She said, "We also have a lot in common and both of us like sharing stories about the good ole days." According to Mary, "This program helps me not to be as lonely. I can spend time with others and it helps my client not be as lonely, too."

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **Senior Companion Program** can:

- Pay a Senior Companion's stipend for 37 hours of one-on-one attention to a homebound, frail, elderly client that is at risk of institutionalization and/or their caregiver

