

# Bill and Sandy's Story

The New River Valley Agency on Aging received a phone call from caregiver, Bill referring his wife Sandy for home delivered meals.

Sandy has a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease with other related conditions including degenerative arthritis, history of brain aneurysms, abdominal bypass surgeries, history of lung operations, signs of possible dementia and significant weight loss. Sandra only weighed 79 lbs. at the time of the referral. She is dependent on Bill for assistance with eating and drinking, along with bathing and transferring.



Life wasn't always this way for Bill and Sandy. Bill used to work full time at a very competitive hourly wage, but due to personal medical reasons and caring for his wife, he had to leave his job. Bill and Sandy did not know how they were going to take care of their financial responsibilities but Bill's greatest concern was his wife's nutrition which is why he requested the meals.

When the agency came into contact with them, they were on the verge of foreclosure on their home and had many outstanding medical bills. This couple lived in very difficult circumstances, but thanks to the home delivered meal referral, much improvement began to take place in their lives.

The meal assessment alerted staff members that much more needed to take place for this couple. In addition to the meals, staff members assisted the couple with the purchase of adaptive and medical equipment, obtaining a Safe Link phone through Medicaid, obtaining food boxes from a local church, referral to Mobility Coordination services for transportation needs, as well as information on care available in the home. Sandy soon qualified for Medicaid waiver services which allowed for additional home care, giving some relief to Bill.

Through the combined efforts with another agency the couple was able to avoid foreclosure proceedings, and delayed the process long enough for Bill to begin receiving his veteran's pension and social security benefits.

The couple is in much better financial standing compared to their financial situation prior to the meal referral was made. Bill and Sandy are now able to make mortgage payments and work toward a repayment plan to catch up on missed payments.

Today, the couple is still receiving home delivered meals and Sandy looks forward to the daily check that the Senior Services meal driver provides. She enjoys seeing and chatting with the driver everyday and Bill can rest easy knowing that his wife's nutrition is one less thing to worry about.

The couple's lives are greatly improved and many additional supports are now in place thanks to the original meal referral to the Agency on Aging and Senior Services.

**Donations like yours help the Senior Services and other United Way partner agencies do meaningful, life-changing work around the New River Valley. Without the help of the Senior Services, Bill and Sandy might not be with us today. When you give to United Way, you help people like Bill and Sandy live a healthier more happy life.**

For more information on Senior Services visit <http://www.nrvss.org/index.html>