

Dorothy

When Dorothy moved to an assisted living apartment in a retirement community, her son encouraged her to make the most of the activities on offer. So most days, she walks a mile – five laps around the second floor. She lifts weights, takes a yoga class and bowls.

“But I’m a terrible bowler,” she said. “I want to do better. Last time, I was embarrassed.”

She also helps some friends whose eyesight is failing. They read together and she helps with their mail.

Dorothy considers herself fortunate. After retiring from her secretary/bookkeeper job in Indiana at age 77 and experiencing some health problems, she moved here to be closer to her son and his family.

She moved to an assisted living facility and lived there five years until she ran out of money. At that time, the facility was not certified to offer the Assisted Living Waiver. She had to move, but she found a new home, which does offer the waiver, enabling Dorothy to qualify for Medicaid to cover her long-term care services.

“I didn’t want to move, but my money was running out,” Dorothy said. “I used everything up.”

Now, speaking of her home and her Council on Aging care manager, Dorothy said, “It’s been a good thing for me to live here. Margo is my friend and if I have any problems, I call her and she takes care of it. She’s very efficient.”



Pictured in top photo: Dorothy (r) and her Council on Aging Care Manager, Margo. When Dorothy ran out of money after paying privately in an assisted living community for five years, she had to move but found a community that accepted Ohio's Assisted Living Waiver program. The waiver helps pay for Dorothy's long-term care services in the community and she has more privacy and freedom than she would in a nursing home. She makes the most of her community, including bowling, yoga and weight-lifting.