

## Jack

### Jack's life is no longer up in the air

At 61, Jack seems too young to have been in a nursing home, but like many younger residents, he needed a place to recover from a serious illness and then additional circumstances in his life conspired to make it difficult to leave the facility. In all, he lived there for 90 days.

Jack's journey began nearly two years ago when he left his job as a traveling bridge painter and moved in with his sister in Batavia.

Jack was eager for a job where he could keep both feet on solid ground. He found one at Kroger and has been doing well at it. "We have the secret shopper program and every time I get one, I score 100," he said.

Then, early in 2016, a bad case of pneumonia landed him in ICU and he had to have surgery.

"I was in the hospital almost a month," Jack said. "I weighed 198 and dropped to 140. My arms and legs were just little wrinkles. I hated being weak. I mean, I just hated it."

While Jack was rehabilitating at the nursing home, his sister's living situation changed, leaving Jack without a home. Through his sister and a social worker at the nursing home, Jack heard about HOME Choice and met with Mary Beth, one of Council on Aging's Community Transitions Coordinators.

"I did the evaluation and it was clear that Jack was temporary at the nursing facility," Mary Beth said. "He is the perfect example of the kind of person the program is made for."

With the help of HOME Choice, Jack and his dog, Rose, moved into his new apartment last summer. He returned to his job at Kroger and his health continues to improve. A HOME Choice case manager will stay in touch with him for about a year.

"It's worked out perfect," Jack said. "This place is nice and I've got money in the bank."



*Pictured in top photo: Jack (l), his dog Rose, and COA Community Transitions Coordinator, Mary Beth. Jack was displaced from his home while he recuperated from an illness and surgery in a nursing home. With help from Ohio's Home Choice program and COA's Community Transitions team, Jack was able to move into a new apartment and return to his job at Kroger.*