Each year, business owner Dorian Maples selects a “word for the year” for her and her employees. Last year, she selected “adventure,” embracing the sentiments of Helen Keller: “Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.”

Dorian’s sense of adventure and compassionate nature led her and her husband, Rick, to found Angel Corps in 2001. The company, which serves nine northeast Indiana counties from four locations, provides non-medical home care that allows clients to stay at home as long as it is safe for them to do so.

In 2012 readers voted Angel Corps best in “Home Health Care” for the fifth consecutive year.

But Dorian’s path to adventure took an unexpected turn last year when her father became an Angel Corps client.

Three days after greeting more than 100 family members and friends on his 80th birthday, he suffered a health crisis. “When Dorian’s dad became a client, it put a personal face to it, and we needed to deal with it on a personal level,” Rick Maples said. “She managed his care, coordinated family caregiving and shared caregiving responsibilities with her siblings and stepmother. It became an adventure for the entire family.”

After a month in the hospital, Steuben County resident Joe Driver — known at Clear Lake as “Papa Joe” — received daily in-home assistance from Angel Corps.

“I knew Dad needed my help,” Dorian said. “I thought we were going to lose him. The involvement of Angel Corps reinforced something that I had said many times but never experienced. I just wanted to be a daughter. Angel Corps let me do that.”

It was a team effort. Joe’s wife, Linda, and his four children, Dorian, Valerie, Louisea and Toby; his Angel Corps caregiver, Heidi; and her supervisor, Ruth, all contributed to his recovery. The story has a happy ending — or, perhaps, a new beginning. Joe is living independently at home with Linda.

Dorian has reaffirmed her belief in the benefits of in-home care and her sense of adventure.