CALLING AN ANGEL

With Angel Corps, compassionate care is only a phone call away.

article by Jennifer Blomquist

photography provided by Angel Corps

It was the middle of the night and 98-year-old Paul Schwartz was having trouble adjusting the volume on his TV. He pressed the button on his emergency response bracelet and within a short time there was a knock at the door.

It was Angel Corps.

“He was happy to see us,” says Robin Norman, client services director for Angel Corps of Fort Wayne. “It’s very important to Paul that he stay in his own home and live as independently as possible. We help make that happen.”

While adjusting the volume on a television set may seem trivial, it was important to Schwartz. Little things like that are what make Angel Corps a standout company when it comes to in-home assistance.

“We know that Dad is being looked after and that he is safe and secure,” says Dan Schwartz, Schwartz’s son who lives out-of-state and serves as his power of attorney.

“Being home-ridden, the only contact Dad really has with outside people is the Angel Corps staff,” says Dan. “They interact with him and have become his friends.”

“Paul is an ideal situation,” explains Angel Corps co-founder Dorian Maples. “We were called upon to help him years ago in the early stages of him needing assistance. We were able to earn his trust and respect and we adapt as he changes. He’s comfortable with us and it’s not as if suddenly we’re living with him.”

Angel Corps is celebrating 10 years of providing in-home care in northeast Indiana with offices in Fort Wayne, Bluffton and Auburn.

“We are so flexible and we have a good response time,” says Maples.

That flexibility was very appealing to Glenn Millis of upstate New York. His daughter, Katie, was married last November in Fort Wayne.

“Katie insisted that her 83-year-old grandmother be there,” explains Millis. “She has moderate dementia and we knew the only way she could go to Katie’s wedding was if we set up some assistance for her.”

Millis contacted Angel Corps and spent weeks corresponding with Norman to work out the details.

“We met Millis’s mom at the new Marriott Hotel downtown where the family was staying,” says Norman. “We were with

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her 24 hours a day all weekend and it went very smoothly. The family was very appreciative.”

“My mom is a partier and dancer from way back,” laughs Millis. “She had a wonderful time. She actually got on the dance floor; it’s probably the best time she has had in years.”

“It was definitely a team effort,” explains Norman. “Our staff worked longer shifts so there would be less disruption for Millis’s mom. The hotel staff was out of this world, making it easy for us to come and go and provide everything our client needed.”

That was last November. Fast forward to February when local businesswoman Marilyn Moran-Townsend was celebrating the birth of her granddaughter, Jasmine.

The baby was perfect, healthy and beautiful, but Moran-Townsend knew her daughter, Julie, and son-in-law, Francisco, were exhausted caring for a newborn. In addition to having a new baby, Julie was working toward her MBA and Francisco was a full-time college student with a full-time job.

“My sister lives in Denver and she gave me a wonderful idea,” says Moran-Townsend. “She told me there was a service in Denver that provided overnight child care for new parents. She reminded me that the greatest gift you can give new parents is a good night’s rest!”

Moran-Townsend called Angel Corps and made arrangements for the staff to take care of Jasmine so Julie and Francisco could sleep and study.

“Our staff loved the assignment,” says Norman. “It was definitely a growing experience for us taking care of someone at the other end of the age spectrum.”

Moran-Townsend highly recommends other grandparents consider doing what she did.

“It was absolutely wonderful to see both of our kids so well-rested and able to really experience the joy of parenting,” says Moran-Townsend. “It’s hard to do that when you’re exhausted.”

Maples and her husband, Rick, enjoy reminiscing about the clients they’ve helped over the last 10 years. Their ages and needs are all different, but the one constant in those stories is the excellent, compassionate care they receive from Angel Corps.

“We grow with our clients,” explains Maples. “As their needs change, we change along with them.”

“I don’t know what my brothers and I would do without Angel Corps,” says Dan Schwartz. “If it weren’t for them, Dad wouldn’t have the good quality of life he enjoys. It’s a huge comfort to us.”