108 Years Young: How In-Home Care Helps Janet and Gives Her Peace of Mind

Janet Corbin continues to live her life full of grace, humor, and resilience at an age most people only dream of reaching. Born and raised in Ewing, New Jersey, she spent her career as a bookkeeper and even met her husband where they worked. “In those days, women stopped working when they married,” she recalled. But she never stopped staying active while raising her son, traveling the world with her husband, serving on hospital boards, playing golf, and even scoring a hole-in-one. “Well, that one shook my husband up, too,” she laughed. She also enjoyed hobbies such as needlepoint and piano.

For the past 25 years, Janet lived with her daughter-in-law, Connie Corbin, in North Brunswick. “How many girls take care of their mother-in-law?” Janet asked with a smile. “They usually complain, but Connie is so wonderful.” Connie adds,” In all the years we’ve known each other, we’ve never crossed words. So I think it’s a testament to the kind of person she is, too. She is a beautiful person.”

When the two moved into their current home in Brick, Janet faced some health problems after being hospitalized for COVID-19. “When she came home, she was just so weak,” Connie recalled. “It was difficult to get her around the house, let alone to multiple doctors’ appointments.” A friend told Connie about Visiting Physician Services [VPS], a primary care practice that makes house calls. She later saw a billboard while driving. “I called, and it was the best decision I ever made,” she said.

Since then, VPS has become a trusted part of Janet’s care.”It’s so much easier than sitting in a waiting room and picking up germs,” Janet shared. “They come to me for everything, including bloodwork, X-rays, and anything I need. They come when they say they will come and are never in a hurry.”

For Connie, the difference has been life-changing. “It gives me peace of mind,” she shares. “I don’t have to worry about transportation or trying to squeeze in an appointment. I know she’s getting excellent care right here at home from people who know her.”

For the past two years, Jackie Augustensen, a VPS physician assistant, has overseen Janet's care. “Janet is amazing; she is the perfect picture of growing older with grace and dignity. She is sweet, funny, and so grateful to have care at home,” Jackie shares.

“Coming into the home gives us an opportunity to get to know our patients on a much more personal level than a traditional office setting. Many patients become friends and family. Being in their homes allows us to see certain barriers and circumstances that would never be taken into account if a patient is only seen in the office. It allows us to provide true comprehensive care. With Janet, we review her health concerns, complete exams, update treatment plans, and refill medications, and we always share a few laughs,” Jackie explained.

Connie says the personal connection matters just as much as the convenience. “It’s not like an ordinary doctor visit; you have friendly conversations with them, so it’s very relaxing. They’re never in a hurry.”

Thanks to VPS, Janet has been able to remain in the comfort of her home, surrounded by family. She’s especially proud of her four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. “They care for me,” she says. “They come over to sit and talk to me and kiss me hello.”

When asked what she’s most thankful for, Janet doesn’t hesitate to say, “My caring and loving family and the people who come to take care of me.” Connie adds, “VPS has made it possible for her to stay home, stay comfortable, and keep living her life. That’s what I’m grateful for.”

As for Janet’s secret to a long life, “I never smoked, and I stayed active,” she shared. And frequently, I have my 'hot tottie', which is two tablespoons of brandy in a mug of hot water,” she shared with a smile.

About Visiting Physician Services

Visiting Physician Services (VPS), part of the Parker Advanced Care Institute at VNA Health Group, is a home-based primary care practice that has been making house calls to older adults and homebound patients for more than 30 years. With a dedicated team of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, RNs, LPNs, and a social worker, VPS provides comprehensive care for chronic and acute conditions as well as in-home diagnostic testing, medication management, wound care, and more. Today, house calls remain one of the safest and most convenient ways to receive medical care, offering patients comfort and peace of mind for their families. Visiting Physician Services accepts Medicare, Horizon, Braven, Aetna, WellPoint, and WellCare.

For more information about Visiting Physician Services, please call 732-571-1000, email info@visiting-physician.com, or visit vnahg.org/vps.