



Elder Care

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

After 55 years of marriage, Shirley and Leonard have learned to work together as a perfect team. When Leonard had to enter the hospital suddenly at age 90, their daughter—who lived four hours away—grew very concerned about how it would disrupt her mother’s routine and affect her wellbeing. She called the experienced geriatric care coordinators at JF&CS to figure out what resources might be available to help Shirley get through this unexpected bump in the road and to determine how the 95-year-old might continue living independently until Leonard came home.

Solution

Shortly after receiving the call, a JF&CS care coordinator did a comprehensive, in-home evaluation of Shirley’s situation. From this assessment, the coordinator put together a care plan for Shirley to help her manage during her days without her husband. Since she had mobility problems, a caregiver came daily from 4 to 8 p.m. to help Shirley with chores around the house and to prepare dinner and meals for the next day. Also, JF&CS care coordinators set up a personal emergency response system for Shirley so she would feel safer in Leonard’s absence. They made regular calls to the couple’s daughter to update her about how Shirley was coping during this difficult period.

Outcome

With the help of her JF&CS care coordinator and caregiver, Shirley made it through the challenging weeks without Leonard at home. Since his hospital stay, the couple continues to receive help from their caregiver twice a week and has monthly visits and frequent phone contact with their care coordinator. And their daughter feels much more confident about her parents’ situation. “As we began to outline a plan for their care, her face just grew more and more relaxed each step of the way,” the care coordinator says.