



Papa stories of connection:

Manuela's story

Papa member Manuela, a 74-year-old widow, has had a tough run with diabetes. Not fully understanding her condition led her to have her left leg amputated several years ago, then more recently, the toes on her right foot. This has left Manuela unable to walk or drive on her own. She relies heavily on a walker—and other people.

Manuela has children, but they have jobs and families of their own, and aren't always available to help. Her schedule is full of appointments, usually during the workday, and she reached a point where she felt like had no one to turn to. "You feel like you're just in the way," she says.

Her Preferred Pal, Twana, has been the perfect companion. She also takes Manuela to her many appointments—not just driving her there, but helping her get inside and making sure she understands the medical information, as English is Manuela's second language.

Manuela was recently fitted for new prosthetic boots that will, hopefully, give her the balance she needs to walk on her own again. She tried them out with her walker while Twana cheered her on. "She cried tears of joy, and I was so happy to be a part of that happy moment in her life," Twana said.



Papa Pals support members all over the country with companionship, help around the house, shopping, transportation, and more. [Scan to meet the people who make it all happen.](#)

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