



Papa stories of connection:

Sumaiyya's story

Papa member Sumaiyya is a mother and grandmother in her late 60s. Sumaiyya spent much of her life feeling lonely, hurting, and without a home, but the past two years have been transformative. Her Papa Pals are playing an important role in her healing journey.

Years spent on and off the streets while struggling with an undiagnosed health condition, mental illness, addiction, and trauma made it incredibly difficult for Sumaiyya to form healthy relationships. "The isolation was really really awful," she says. Sumaiyya needed someone to talk to, and after enrolling in Papa through her health plan, she wishes she had access to the service years ago.

No stranger to social services, Sumaiyya appreciates that her Papa Pals are just normal people who make her feel like their equal. They spend time together in her new apartment, enjoying tea, painting, or chatting, and sometimes they'll go out into the community.

"When I look at my calendar and I see Papa on there, there's this little twinkle that goes off in my heart, like, 'Oh, I have somebody coming to visit me in my apartment today,'" she shares. "After years of being alone without anyone to talk to, it heals that loneliness."

Sumaiyya can't get back all those years she lost on the streets, but she can move forward into a brighter future. And with her Papa Pals by her side, she won't be moving forward alone.



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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