



“He’s Like a Brother to Me”

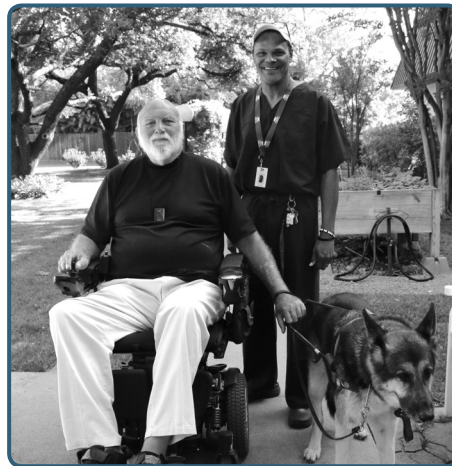
“Charles has changed my life,” says 75-year-old Thomas Snyder about the vital role his Meals on Wheels Central Texas In-Home Care attendant, Charles Johnson, has played in helping him live independently.

Long before the two men met, Mr. Snyder spent his entire professional career helping others. He certainly had the qualifications to do so having earned three Master’s degrees – one each in Theology, Education, and Clinical Psychology.

Mr. Snyder’s first job was operating social service programs, such as Head Start, at a small Episcopal church in Buffalo, New York. He later taught at a Jesuit high school in Cleveland, and also spent time in South Dakota helping run five missions located on Native American reservations.

But Mr. Snyder lost his eyesight several years ago and moved to Austin to receive services from Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, a rehab training facility for people who are vision-impaired.

He became a client of Meals on Wheels Central Texas In-Home Care in 2015 when a degenerative neuromuscular disease robbed him of his ability to care for himself and, eventually, his ability to walk. Fortunately, our friendly, dedicated attendants were able to assist him with the activities of daily life.



Thomas Snyder (left) with MOWCTX In-Home Care attendant Charles Johnson, and Mr. Snyder’s service dog, Ivon.

Charles Johnson, who has worked for MOWCTX In-Home Care for seven years, has been helping Mr. Snyder since 2016. Mr. Johnson learned early in life how to care for others. “I took a lot of this learning how to take care of

people from my mom, who I lost at a young age. So it taught me to grow up fast and to learn how to take care of people, to have sincerity and compassion for them,” he recalls.

Every weekday at 8am, Mr. Johnson arrives at Mr. Snyder’s North Austin apartment and begins cleaning. “I’ll start with the bedroom area and I’ll just work my way to the front of the [apartment]. I’ll wait until he’s ready to take a bath and I’ll give him a bath,” he says of his daily schedule. “There are things I can’t do safely,” Mr. Snyder says of the daily routines of living, such as bathing. “The odds of me falling are dramatically higher than for somebody else. Charles, every day, gets this large body and cleans it. It’s like a truck wash,” he says with deadpan humor.

He refers to Mr. Johnson as “a steady companion who sees things that need to be done.” He adds, “Today, he alerted me to a minor injury on my leg. I didn’t know it was there. I have no

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The In-Home Times' Featured Attendant

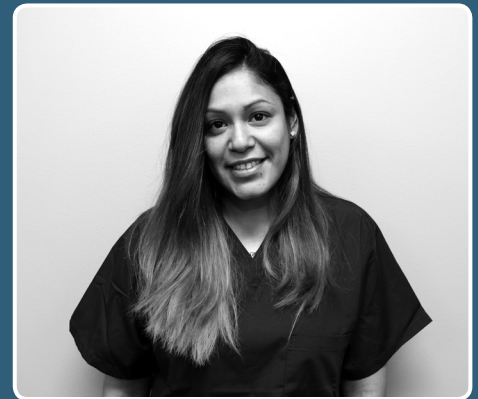
Name: Joanna Cruz

Years with MOWCTX In-Home Care: 1

Best Thing about Being a MOWCTX In-Home Care Attendant:
Helping the ones who are

in need of home care...and the way I make someone's day that couldn't help themselves

What Do You Enjoy Doing During Your Time Off:
Spending time with my children



Did You Know?

Generous funding from our wonderful partner organization Susan G. Komen allows us to

provide supportive services to breast cancer survivors and those receiving treatment. Services are customized to meet each client's needs and may include; personal care, companionship, homemaker services, meal preparation, shopping, and escort to medical appointments.



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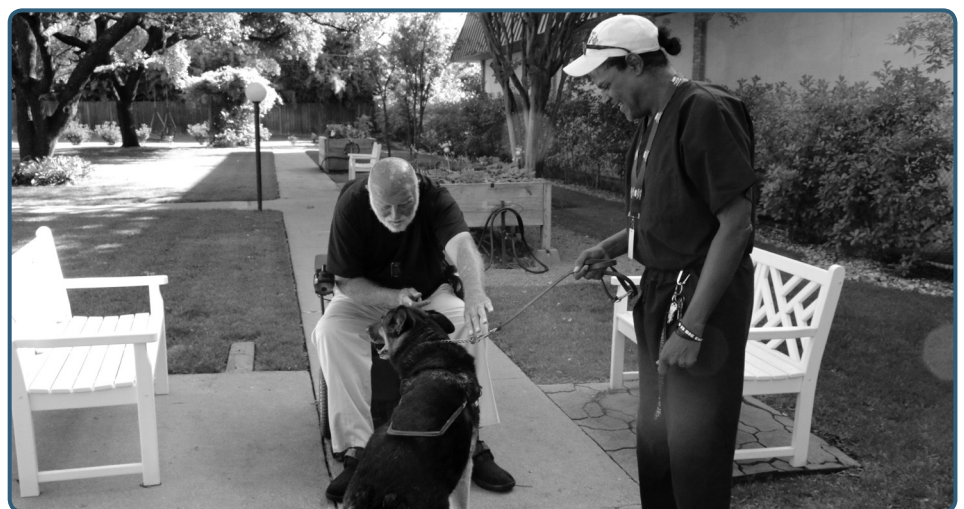
We're excited to now offer MOWCTX In-Home Care in Williamson and Bastrop counties thanks to the generous support of our friends at St. David's Foundation.



"He's Like a Brother to Me" (cont.)

feeling in my legs and I couldn't see it. So you know, it's that kind of thing before it becomes a crisis and I lose a leg."

"He's like a brother to me," says Mr. Johnson of Mr. Snyder. Mr. Snyder, meanwhile, credits Mr. Johnson and Meals on Wheels Central Texas In-Home Care with helping him to live independently: "I mean, it's a hundred different things that not only make life easier but safer."



Client Thomas Snyder and MOWCTX In-Home Care attendant Charles Johnson play with Mr. Snyder's service dog, Ivon.