



John, 82 years old, has been receiving meals on wheels, as well as holiday and weekend meals for over two years. He has multiple health issues and with a smile states, "I've had everything except pregnancy!" His smiles help him keep an upbeat attitude about having end stage renal failure, as well as dialysis twice a week as a result of long-term asthma after having survived bladder cancer.

He has lived in his split-level house for 35 years. His son moved in shortly before his wife died in December 2009 to help care for her and stayed to care for his father. While his son works, John passes the time reading, playing games on the computer and continues to work as Fuller Brush salesman. Starting out 41 years ago door-to-door, he now calls customers on the phone.

John thinks the meals on wheels program is wonderful and says the volunteers are top notch! Sometimes he will save half the meal for dinner. He cannot stand for long, uses a walker, and due to falling in the home wears a life alert around his neck. On top of dialysis and renal failure, he is diabetic, on his third pacemaker, cannot drive, has limited mobility, takes 14 different medications, and lives in a house that needs many repairs. With all that, still smiling, he is grateful for the meals so he can stay at home.

On the day of my visit when the volunteer knocked, I offered to get his meal. He adamantly refused and wanted to show me how he does it. The volunteer was not aware of my presence. His name is Marvel and John calls him by nickname "Marvelous" as they engaged in conversation! When the volunteer left, John proceeded to show me how he puts the meal on the stairs going up them one-at-a-time.