

Mended Hearts of Central Ohio



Patient Panel – “Heart Success Stories”

Ross Heart Hospital

May 14, 2014

Mended Hearts of Central Ohio

We are blessed to be living in the 21st Century with talented cardiologists and surgeons and genetic research that is saving heart patient lives every day! The following slides include some of our member's heart success stories.

(see more stories on our website and reach out to our panelists by e-mail if you are facing a similar heart issue – see last slide)

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Christine Ballengee Morris

Congenital Heart Disease, Brain Aneurysms, ICD

I was born with coarctation of the aorta, which was not corrected until I was 20 years old, with open-heart surgery. The narrowed section of my aorta was removed and replaced with a Dacron tube.

Years later, suffering from high blood pressure and many pill cocktails that did not work, two experimental stents were put into place to reopen the recoarctated aorta. I was also diagnosed with 2 brain aneurysms, which were clipped. I also have a bicuspid aortic valve.

This past year, I started having troubles again: my legs felt asleep, my blood pressure became erratic, I passed out a few times and through several tests and a heart monitor, doctors were able to capture a ventricular arrhythmia.

A defibrillator was put in place and I am now feeling a kinship to an automobile with a dead battery that needs jumped every once in a while.

Just recently, I found out that the experimental stents are narrowing, so it looks like there is more to come...stay tuned.



John Cole

Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD), Multiple Pacemakers



In 1965, I was born with VSD (but it was not diagnosed for several months). I had my first surgery at 2 months for Pyloric Stenosis and then hernia surgery. My next surgery was at 4 months for Pulmonary Banding.

In 1973 (8 yrs old) I had open heart surgery for VSD repair (left on ventilator for over a week and external pacemaker for 3 wks). They then placed 1st internal pacemaker (6 week hospital stay). After a year, a 2nd pacemaker was implanted (lasted 2 months).

Currently, I have had 11 pacemakers, 2 infections, 1 collapsed lung, 10 leads, 4 different implant sites. As of college, I have been told my heart is stable (and have only had a problem with VTACH since). To date, I have had 23 surgeries (not all heart related) but am very active and loving life, as you can see!

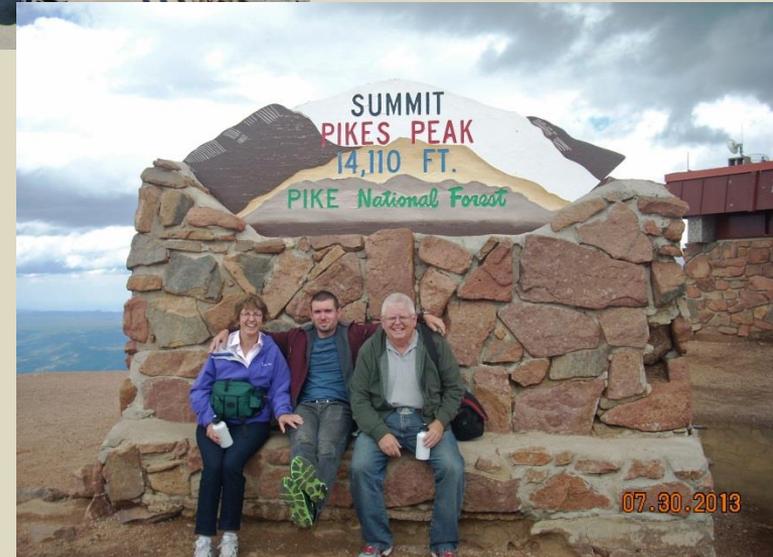
Randy Smith

Heart Attack, Congestive Heart Failure

On November 9, 2011, I suffered my first of five heart attacks. I was at Hartford Hospital where the surgeons removed a 100% blockage in the RCA and gave me 5 stents. In the next three months, I had another two 100% blockage events. Today I have ten stents in the right side and one in the left side of the heart.

In 2012 I transferred my records to OSU where my Cardiologist successfully treated two more heart attacks and unstable angina that troubled me on a daily basis.

Today we are focusing on congestive heart failure and fluid retention. I am very thankful to the Doctors, nurses and staff at OSU for helping me through these challenges.



Francisco Paco Morera

Aortic Valve Replacement, Aneurysm and CABG

After 25 years in the Army Reserve with the current rank of Lt. Colonel and deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, I was in the best shape of my life.

In 2013, after several months of having chest pains while running, I went to the cardiologist and was diagnosed with a heart defect –a bicuspid aortic valve and aortic stenosis. It was determined that I needed a new heart valve. A week later, I had a heart catheterization which showed a 90% blockage in my LAD artery and I was immediately transported to the OSU Ross Hospital.

On September 4, 2013 I received a new Medtronic mechanical valve, had coronary artery bypass surgery, and a thoracic aneurysm was grafted. Just 8 months after surgery, I am back to running, working out, and enjoying life again.



Paul Sparks

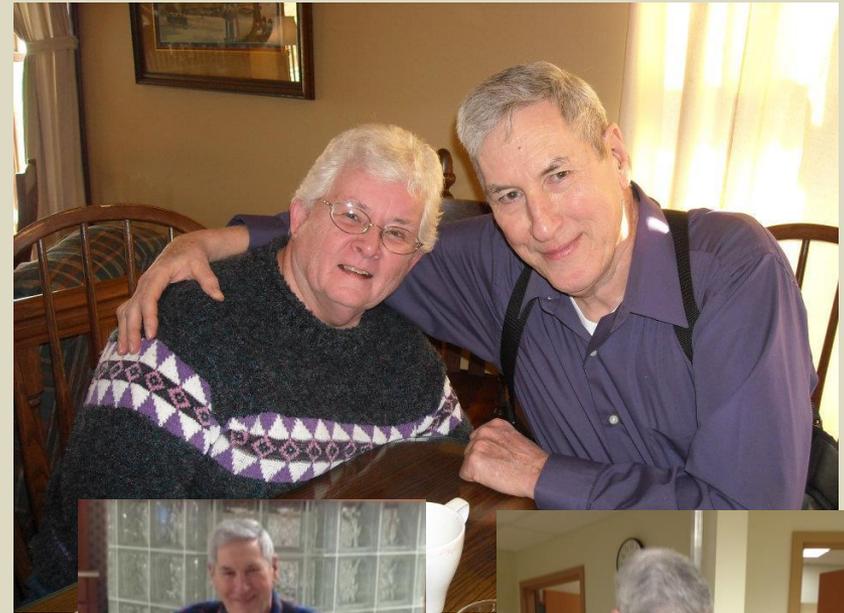
Left Ventricle Assist Device (LVAD)

My first heart attack occurred in 1983 at age 40. Then I had quadruple bypass surgery in Jan 1984. From 1984 to 2007, I was healthy.

My second heart attack came in 2007 (my heart rate was 155, I went to the ER and they stopped my heart 3 times to try to get a normal rhythm). I also had an AICD/pacemaker implanted. Then in June 2008 they placed a 3rd wire on my AICD.

My heart failure worsened and I had an LVAD implanted Nov 2, 2010.

I still have CHF (fluid buildup, Vfib, fatigue, etc.) but am also still mowing the lawn and trying to live life to the fullest.



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