

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> internal pacemaker (6 week hospital stay). After a year, a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

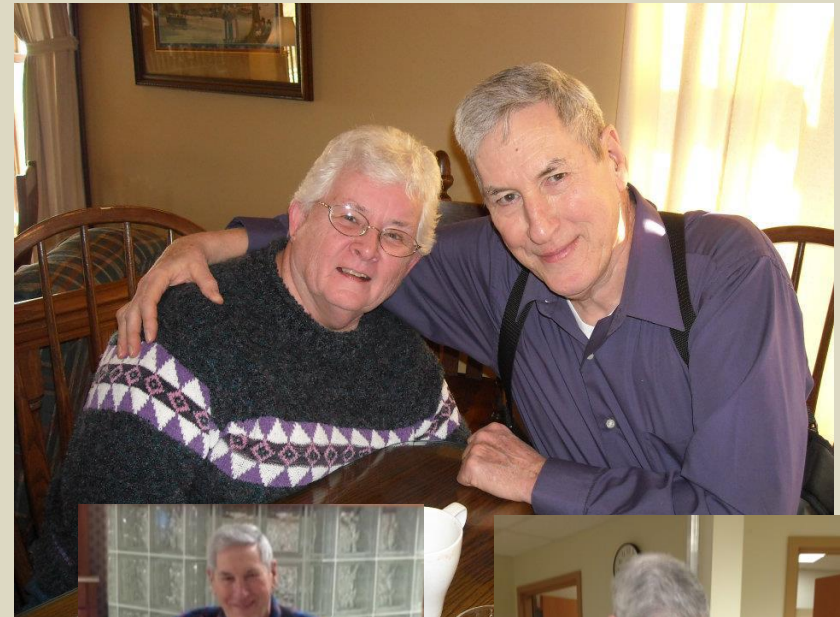
## Left Ventricle Assist Device (LVAD)

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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