

2016 Oley Corporate Partnership Program

My journey with short bowel syndrome and nutrition support began six years ago with a serious accident. My husband and I were in the desert for four days without food or water. **Very, very near death, we were saved...** by human and divine miracles. Later I was saved by medical miracles at the hands of University of Arizona doctors, the miracle of home parenteral nutrition (HPN), and the emotional miracles of family, friends, home health care, and the Oley Foundation.

My fabulous sister Bonnie and two girlfriends attended the Oley Annual Consumer/Clinician Conference in June 2011. Notes were taken—but better yet, Bonnie met Oley staff, clinicians and consumers who shared their stories of life after HPN. All the information Bonnie brought to me from the conference—and my **talking to other consumers by phone during the conference—was the “kick in the butt” I needed** to put on my big girl panties and strive to be as normal as I could once again.

I learned to do the HPN with hydration for myself. My home health nurse stopped coming, and—wow—I was driving again and going to Pilates. I took my first overnight. I didn't go alone, but I was doing it. In 2012, I was feeling confident enough to drive with my sister from Tucson to Redondo Beach, California, for the 2012 Oley Conference.

Walking into the first session, I knew I was in the right place. **I was surrounded by people of all ages not just getting by, but really living, catheters and tubes and all.** I heard professionals and consumers, just like me, talk about their experiences. Then I sat down and had a heart-to-heart talk with a man on parenteral nutrition. I will never forget the stories we shared, and how much it affected me. **I came away from the conference a new person and with new way of looking at things. It changed my life.**

“I never would have had this quality of life without Oley.”



Lynda is thankful to be well enough to drive her sporty car again.

Fast forwarding a few years, **I have built a support network with other women I've met through Oley.** Our “mini support group” gathers when we can for a few days together. **We share our ups and downs, keep ourselves focused on the positive, and encourage each other to take on new challenges.** I still have short bowel syndrome, but with information learned through Oley and shared with my doctors, I am able to live without parenteral nutrition. **I never would have had this quality of life without Oley.** I am grateful every day.

I have been a regular donor to Oley since my first conference, and **I encourage you to support the Foundation,** too. Working together we can ensure Oley will be there to change the lives of consumers for years to come.

—Lynda B.



Help along the way

43 New Scotland Ave., MC-28

Albany Medical Center

Albany, NY 12208-3478

(800) 776-OLEY, (518) 262-5079 / FAX (518) 262-5528

www.oley.org / bishopj@mail.amc.edu