



WHAT “FUTURES” DID FOR ME

By Sharman Collins – November 1996

Futures Unlimited, Inc., in Columbus, Mississippi, provides out-patient physical therapy and rehabilitation primarily for clients suffering from post-polio syndrome, spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, head trauma, and developmental disorders. In the field of rehabilitation, the clinic's efforts are primarily directed by Ed Snapp, P.T. Mr. Snapp is a polio survivor. My therapy started on August 11 and finished on August 25, 1996. The results of the treatment are truly remarkable...very little short of miraculous!

In the last five and one-half years, my physical condition deteriorated rapidly. I had no physical imitations six years ago. As of August 1996, I was spending 12 hours a day on a Bi-pap, wearing a rigid full-torso back brace, using my scooter to go from one side of a room to another, and unable to cook, clean, or use my muscles in any sustained way at all.

When I left Futures after my treatment, I was astounded by how good I felt. I went to the clinic expecting no improvement. Over the years, I have tried many different types of treatment. None of them gave me any significant relief. But I was determined to keep on looking—not only for me—but for all of us. Post-polio syndrome is the great robber of vitality and ability. If there was a viable treatment option out there, God-willing, I would find it.

I have gained measurable strength each week since I have been home. My scooter is parked in the garage to use to take the dogs out for a long walk up and down the back of my hill. My back brace and Bi-pap are in the closet, unused since the end of August. In the last month, I have been able to shop—on foot—for hours. My kitchen is once again MY OWN. I have made pies, cookies, muffins, and dinners for my family, all in the last several weeks. I am knitting again and able to sew a bit, too. My body temperature is back to normal—no more freezing legs.

My body is still weak, but I am able to exercise in the pool now. And I am gaining strength. Everyone asks me, “Will this last? How much stronger will you get in the future?” I am leaving that up to the Lord. I will do my part, and He will take care of the rest, in whatever way He desires. May He do what He will with this new-found physical strength. It is in His hands, as is everything else in my life.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the clinic, contact Futures Unlimited, Inc. at (601) 327-7333.

NOTE: Sharman continues to have a full, active life in 1008, several years after original treatment.