

SPECTRIOS INSTITUTE

for Low Vision

RONNA'S SIGHT IS THE KEY TO HER WORLD

For quite some time, it has been the vision of Executive Director, Dr. Tracy Williams, to expand our mission with a Home Care Vision Program. The pieces finally came together and we were thrilled to begin treating our first patients in May.

The adults participating in this program have debilitating medical conditions making it difficult for them to leave home. **For these patients, in-home care is not a mere convenience, but a necessity. It is the only way for them to access sight saving vision care.**

Ronna received services through our Home Care Vision Program. Like many of our homebound patients, she would have forgone an eye exam, even though she needed one, because it was too difficult to go out.

For over a year, Ronna saw several doctors before she was diagnosed

with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in March of 2014. She continued working until May as an Information Technology Manager and Programmer using only one hand as the other had become paralyzed. The disease has progressed rapidly since then and now she has lost the use of her legs. Despite her disease, Ronna's mind is sharp and she maintains a great sense of humor.



In a poignant interview, Ronna discusses why Spectrios Institute's Home Care Vision Program is very important to her.

Continued on page 2

What challenges are involved in going to the doctor's office?

Physically there are a lot of challenges for the caregiver, such as stairs, getting my wheelchair through a door that's not automated, making sharp turns and staying out of people's way.

You may think doctors' offices are ADA accessible, but really many aren't. You may be able to get in the building, but there is no way to get in the actual office. I had to change my family doctor because I couldn't get down the hall to enter the exam room. Not being able to see my family doctor after all these years was frustrating.

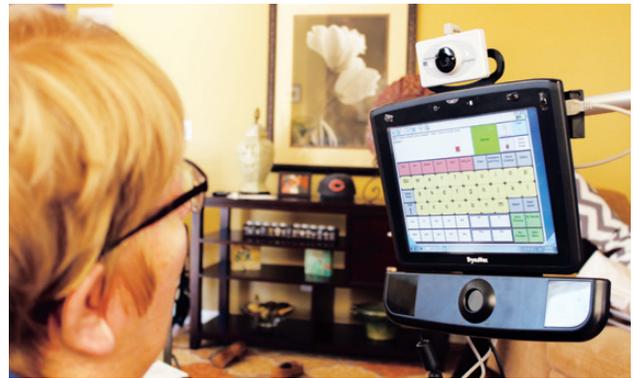
It is funny, I can go to a movie and they will accommodate parking, there is a ramp for my wheelchair and accessible seating. If you want to go somewhere more important like the doctor, it is so much harder.

Going out is emotionally horrifying. I feel like a spectacle. It gets to the point where I don't want to go out at all. With ALS I have only "X" amount of energy every day and once I lose that energy I am more at risk and become dependent on my breathing machine.

Why is good vision vital to you?

I have a Dynavox which allows me to operate my computer to access the

Internet and read books by using eye movement. When I reach the stage where I lose my voice it will speak for me. It's difficult and I need more practice to use it. I spend a lot of time watching TV and movies.



Ronna using Dynavox

What problems were you having with your vision?

I was feeling strain in one eye and my vision was blurrier. I wasn't sure if it was my eyes or because I was using my eyes differently now.

What was your experience with our Home Care Vision Program?

Dr. Robinson was very pleasant and professional. He was open to questions. I have to tell you I know my eyes very well. After the exam I gave him a quiz. I asked him four questions about my vision and he answered them perfectly. I teased him and said, 'Bet you didn't expect that.' Dr. Robinson passed! **It was the best eye exam I ever had!**

*Josh Robinson, O.D.
Lead Team Doctor
Home Care Vision
Program*



What is the value of having vision care at home?

It was way less stressful. You are in the comfort of your own familiar surroundings which makes the exam easier. I felt more confident with my selection of lenses than when I went to the eye doctor's office. I was sitting more naturally, and when the doctor changed lenses, it wasn't so quick that I couldn't decide which was better. In the past, I always walked out wondering if I made the right choice. Dr. Robinson prescribed new glasses that he delivered to me. My new glasses are clearer.



Ronna selecting the appropriate lenses

With her loss of mobility Ronna is depending on her eyes to watch television and movies, which are her main sources of entertainment. It is her eyes that guide her Dynavox which operates her computer and will eventually speak for her. For Ronna, prescriptive glasses that enhance her vision are not a luxury, but a necessity.

Spectrios Institute feels blessed for the opportunity to improve Ronna's quality of life as she courageously battles ALS.

Find out more about Spectrios Institute's Home Care Vision Program and our patients' experiences by going to the You Tube link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYTvdxcrsDXoTKoB-6znLQ/feed>

Your support is essential to keep all of our vision programs operating. There are many ways you can donate to Spectrios Institute. Take a look at the back page and decide what is the best option for you.

THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GIVE

Which of these options is right for you?

GIVE A GIFT OF CASH

Send a check or charge to your Discover, MasterCard or Visa.

GIVE A GIFT OF STOCK

Spectrios Institute has accounts set up to accept gifts of stock. If you use this method to give, please contact the Spectrios Institute Development Department to ensure a smooth transaction.

GIVE A MATCHING GIFT

Many companies offer a matching gift program providing employees with an opportunity to double or even triple their gift to non-profit organizations like ours. Contact your company's human resource representative for further information.

BECOME A VISIONARY MEMBER

HOW? Provide for Spectrios Institute's future with a planned gift. Some options are listed below. When you have finalized your plan let us know so we may include your name on our Visionary Members List with others who are committed to ensuring Spectrios Institute services are available for generations to come.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR ESTATE

When making or updating your will we hope you will remember Spectrios Institute. Consult your estate planning attorney who can assist you in adding the appropriate wording to your will.

GIVE THROUGH A CHARITABLE REMAINDER INSTRUMENT

(e.g. charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities etc.). This method of giving offers a tax advantage.

GIVE THROUGH A GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE

Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need and/or name Spectrios Institute as beneficiary.

Some of these options may offer a substantial tax advantage and support Spectrios Institute at the same time. Please discuss them with your tax advisor to find out more.

For further information regarding any of the "ways to give" listed above, contact the Spectrios Institute Development Department.