

It Will NOT Conquer Us

Larry's Story



“I want everyone to know how impressed I am with the amount of research the OHF is able to fund, including what they have already accomplished.”

– Kathy Dimmick

The symptoms of Hyperoxaluria hit Larry Dimmick at the age of 37 years old. He remembers that day as vividly as if it was yesterday! Larry was working at St. Michaels School in Tunkhannock, PA as a counselor, when as he was bending over picking up cans with the boys as a service project, he suddenly felt like he had been hit in the side with a sledge hammer, or tackled by a line backer! It was so paralyzing he could not straighten his back. Bent over he walked to the nurse's office. Larry was experiencing the excruciating pain of kidney stones!

How he wished that would be the one and only time, but life had another plan for him. His health dramatically began to change. Larry began to pass many stones alternating with severe bouts of joint and leg swelling with terrific pain. For the next 11 years several doctors

just treat the symptoms. Maybe it was gout, maybe “traveling” arthritis or a virus. It wasn't until Dr. Barbara Murphy at the Veterans Administration Clinic witnessed for herself the extremely hot and painful swelling in his knee and leg that he got some answers. Dr. Murphy vowed to find the cause and her research on the internet led her to conclude Larry had Hyperoxaluria. She directed Larry to check out the OHF and Mayo Clinic Hyperoxaluria Center website for help in formulating a good diet plan. Dr. Murphy suggested limiting his oxalate intake to 50mg per day and added vitamin B6, folic acid and magnesium daily. The results that followed were dramatic and hard to believe.

In six short months Larry's stones decreased from 50 down to three. The incredible results unfortunately came with a downfall for Larry; the diet dangerously lowered his weight to

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quickly. Dr. Murphy was able to adjust the oxalate count in his diet from information provided from the Mayo Clinic, to 80mg per day which was more suited for his 6'4" frame.

Larry still frequents the clinic and hospital to receive regular care involving several doctors. He still makes stones; sometimes he says he can even feel his kidney quiver with pain. The good news is that the frequency of the stones that he has experienced in the past is lower because of his treatment. His wife Kathy said, "We are trying to live day by day with this disease, adjusting to changing information and new research. Because we can't totally conquer it, we must NOT let it conquer us." Larry is grateful for the support of his wife and family, without them, he said he would not have made it this far.

Kathy said what hits home to her are the articles she reads in the OHF newsletter. She reads how the researchers are working to find a cure, but knows that time is of the essence. There are so many names and faces of those that are now in the "memory of" section. This makes them so sad, but they will not give up hope for a cure!

Larry has learned to adjust to his limitations. He has now acquired severe spinal calcifications, which prevent him from participating in the sport he loved the most: basketball. Should he get hit with the basketball in those calcified areas, he may become totally paralyzed. Instead what he enjoys now is the excitement of his six grandchildren and occasionally kayaking down the Susquehanna River.

Larry said, "I want everyone to know how impressed I am with the amount of research the OHF

is able to fund, including what they have already accomplished. Without the OHF there would have no hope of a cure in my future." The Dimmick family is looking forward to hosting an OHF-Take the Challenge Walk for a Cure, to help raise money to make sure the research will not end. Look for details to follow on the OHF website www.ohf.org.