



My name is Irmadean Lance and I have had Arthritis for over 30 years. I used to think Arthritis was just a disease that was a nuisance and caused people a lot of discomfort. Now I know it is a disease that not only is extremely painful but also extremely debilitating.

Arthritis has changed my life in many ways and has taken away much of my independence. I used to love to get out and walk 3-4 miles a day. Those were the good old days, doing yard work and talking with the neighbors. I had aches and pains but I was still very active.

Then about 5 years ago I started falling and I didn't know why. Through testing I found out that my Arthritis was making my spine offset which was pinching a nerve and making me fall. The Arthritis was forcing my spine out of alignment so badly that it actually fractured my vertebrae and damaged my spinal cord.

In 2005 I had a spinal surgery to try to correct the problem. The Arthritis worsened and my condition continued to deteriorate. The pain was horrific and I had terrible muscle spasms that on occasion caused my legs to jerk uncontrollably.

Nine months after my first spinal surgery I had a second spinal surgery. I had screws in my head and was put in traction to try to pull my spine apart.

Within a three week period I went from living independently to being told the surgery was unsuccessful and I would never walk or live independently again. This was all due to Arthritis in my spine.

Parkway Manor has been my new home since 2005. After going through rehab at Parkway Manor, I am able to walk with assistance.

I get great care at Parkway Manor and I really appreciate and love the staff. They are my extended family. I want to thank them for all they do. Above all else I want to thank God and give Him glory for being with me each step of the way.

My dream is for there to one day be a cure for Arthritis so future generations won't have to suffer the pain and loss of independence that I have experienced.

Please consider supporting the Arthritis Foundation. The proceeds generated go towards research to help find a cure for this painful and debilitating disease.