



Eye Priority, P.C.

Newsletter Archives

Gail's Vision Therapy Success Story

We recently received a wonderful personal account from our vision therapy patient Gail Gentry. Gail suffered a traumatic brain injury as the result of a fall, and her life changed forever. With the help of extensive therapy which has included vision therapy from therapist Linda Hardee, Gail has recently made astounding progress. Here are a few excerpts:

“It was a remarkable paloverde, its branches juxtaposed upon each other in a fascinating pattern of depth and shadows. I could see a nest of birds deep within its branches and, as that tree came into sharp green focus, I understood what just 6 months of vision therapy had done for me. Binocular vision - depth perception - was returning.

My world had seemed as flat as a painting. Over time you forget what life looked like before, accept your limitations, and learn to compensate, so I no longer had a real concept of the loss. But, standing in a parking lot staring at that amazing tree, I realized this leg of my 14 year journey held more excitement and progress than I could have thought possible.

In 1994 I stumbled and fell, awoke a short time later and saw blood from the gash on my head. It was just a head wound, they said, and, 17 stitches later, I went home and rearranged my schedule for the next few days. Nothing was broken. MTBI-mild traumatic brain injury. ‘Mild’ referred to the fact that my brain had not been breached by a foreign object and my skull was intact.

There was nothing mild, however, about the effects of this life altering event. It was like living in a foreign country – and I wasn’t fluent in the language. My entire personality and abilities had changed. I could not work efficiently and I was forced to close my business. I could not drive safely. Could not get along with people. Struggled with both anger and anxiety. Couldn’t see right- couldn’t hear right....

Many months later, after extensive rehab, I could again manage the basics of independent living, using a system of visual cues, memory prompts, ‘how to’ lists, and a daily diary. I was driving again and not getting hysterical when I got lost. But vision was still a problem. I could not focus long enough to read signs. I ran over curbs. Traffic was a terrifying challenge- I couldn’t tell how far away the cars were!

Eventually I was led to Eye Priority, Dr. Kelly De Simone and therapist Linda Hardee. Many fantastic things have occurred in just six months of vision therapy. The world is no longer flat like a painting. I can now drive comfortably and rarely get lost. Being able to focus long enough to read the signs and know how far away a car is, makes driving a whole lot easier!!

Improving my visual skills has had surprising effects on the way I process information and recall it. Memory, learning, comprehending, socializing, doing multiple tasks in sequence are just a few of the many activities related to vision. I can find what I’m looking for and know what I’m supposed to do once I find it. I shop without the anxiety caused by visual and auditory overload, can get along with people, can comprehend, remember and learn, and no longer have to line up my toiletries in order of use. I can read a book and remember the plot, do crosswords, sudoku and word puzzles. Even my signature has changed, from a barely legible scrawl to what it used to be – a statement of who I am.

Independent living rehab gave me ‘a life’ back; but vision therapy has given me back a big portion of myself...

If you or your loved one is beginning your vision therapy adventure - congrats to you! My wish for you is many startling 3-D paloverde trees!”



Gail Gentry