

McLeod Diabetes Newsletter

A Publication of the McLeod Health Foundation

A Story For Our Donors

Angie Daloisio, who works in the McLeod Echo Lab, happily reports that her mother is finding a new lease on life since she received our donors help with a McLeod Foundation diabetes educational scholarship.



Rhonda Grice, Angie's mother, has had diabetes since age 10. Rhonda has been on insulin since age 18 when she was hospitalized for three days in a coma. Since that time, she has raised two healthy children and now has five grandchildren. She was healthy as long as she had medical insurance to help pay for her medication, physician appointments and diabetes equipment. But several years ago, her husband suffered a stroke and he had to go on disability. For the first time in her life Rhonda was without insurance. While she was still able to purchase her supplies to monitor her blood sugar as well as insulin to take during this difficult time, the strain of caring for herself and her husband took a toll on her health. Diabetes affected Rhonda's eyes (retinopathy) and her heart. In 2005, Rhonda suffered a heart attack and required heart bypass surgery.

The McLeod Diabetes Center staff met Rhonda and Angie, when Rhonda was admitted with more heart problems in January of this year. They found that she had no medical resources, except her physician. The diabetes educators informed Rhonda about various programs to assist people without insurance with medication. She was pleased to hear that she qualified for a diabetes educational scholarship and started out-patient diabetes self-management sessions at the McLeod Diabetes Center. The certified diabetes educators worked closely with Rhonda and her physician to enable her to attain the best insulin regime to control her diabetes, maintain her blood sugar monitor supplies and medications. The diabetes educational scholarship meant that Rhonda could receive educational services and supplies without a charge. These scholarships are available to persons like Rhonda who do not have medical insurance and who qualify by application.

Angie says that her mother is feeling better than she has in years. Rhonda excitedly says that her diabetes is more controlled and that her eyesight has improved. Rhonda has not been admitted to the hospital again. She is keeping her physician and education appointments and enjoys spending quality time with her grandchildren at home.

Diabetes is often a family illness and three of Rhonda's grandchildren also have diabetes – one has type 1 diabetes, like Rhonda. What Rhonda is learning about diabetes is being shared with her whole family so, perhaps, her grandchildren will not develop the complications of diabetes in their lifetime. Rhonda hopes that her grandchildren will have a better quality of life. She says, "the diabetes educators at the McLeod Diabetes Center have helped me more than other professionals have in the past."

Please consider a donation to the McLeod Foundation to fund more diabetes educational scholarships. One of your family members may need it soon.



McLeod Diabetes Center Staff

(L-R) Sonda Jett-Clair, Marilyn Henderson,
Debbie Thomas, and Anita Longan

McLeod Health Foundation

P.O. Box 100551 • Florence, SC 29502-0551 • 843-777-2694

www.mcleodfoundation.org

McLeod Health Foundation
P.O. Box 100551
Florence, SC 29502-0551

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Gifts made in memory of a loved one or in honor of a caregiver are the life blood of charitable funding for McLeod Hospice. These gifts are invaluable to ensure that our McLeod Hospice staff and volunteers are able to continue providing a full range of hospice services to all who need them.

The McLeod Foundation has also made tribute giving easy for you. Your gifts can be made on our secure website at www.McLeodFoundation.org. If you prefer to donate by mail, you can call the Foundation office to request convenient Tribute Envelopes be mailed to you. Either way, your gift will be acknowledged to the person or persons you request and a receipt will be sent to you.



Donations to the McLeod Foundation are just a click away by going to www.mcleodfoundation.org or by calling the McLeod Foundation at 843-777-2694.