

Jeri's 10 Year Nightmare Turns to Joy

- I worked as a housekeeper for 14 years at a hospital near my home
- I injured my back while working at the hospital in 1998
- Filed for Social Security Disability in 2000
- Denied twice - appealed
- Had a hearing in 2002 - Lawyer representing me never requested medical records to defend me. The judge denied my appeal
- Got a new attorney and filed a new case; Denied twice - appealed
- Had a hearing with another judge in 2005 – this time with medical records
- Judge denied second claim saying I wasn't credible because a person With no income shouldn't be able to afford to call her elderly mother in Ohio once a week. My roommate had phone service with flat rate long Distance- but the judge never asked
- My lawyer appealed. Filed a new case in 2005; Denied twice - appealed
- Hearing scheduled in July 2007 with the same judge who denied me in 2005– more Nightmares!!
- Judge postponed Hearing –needed Appeals Council decision on 2005 denial – although Appeals Council maintained they never received an Appeal, a denial was received on April 28th.
- Hearing finally took place April 29th
- Now on the verge of being homeless.
- WOW! Today is June 4, 2008. I just received my APPROVAL – I can't believe it !

The only bright spot in this long fight was getting Compassion's phone number from a friend in 2006. Compassion's advocate reviewed all the decisions I had received through the years, organized my records and helped my doctors provide appropriate detailed reports which include all of the limitations caused by my injury that keep me from being able to work. Neither of my lawyers ever did this. Those records are filed with Social Security and were part of the file for the recently held Hearing . Because of all of the filings and appeals, the second lawyer is still representing me. If I have my way, Compassion will represent all of my claims with Social Security in the future.

Not only has Compassion worked on my Social Security Disability case, they have also made sure I had food, holiday baskets, and a compassionate ear whenever I need it. They are the only glimmer of hope in this whole dark mess!! I could never have won this fight without Compassion!!