

August 31, 2003

My name is Lynn and I am a client of Compassion In Action –USA. I would like to tell you my story.

I was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes as a teenager. I am a single mother of 2 children – a son and a daughter, both out of high school. As an adult I worked for 26 years as a cashier for a major grocery chain and am a member of the Retail Clerk's Union.

In January of 2002 I was treated and had corrective foot surgery for several conditions caused by my diabetes. I returned to work in April of 2002 and worked until I was injured when tripping over a torn mat at a check stand on May 25, 2002. My doctor had allowed me to return to work only if I could be on modified duty. The injury in May occurred when a supervisor ignored these restrictions. My foot was broken as a result of this incident.

I have been unable to return to work as of this date and had numerous procedures and surgeries on my feet in the summer of 2002. I am now recuperating from a series of procedures that started over a month ago.

I had lost my health insurance in the Fall of 2002 after my employer's Worker's Comp denied my claim. For that reason I had minimal care for my diabetes and foot conditions for over 8 months. I was receiving State Disability and had been told I was not eligible to apply for Medi-Cal.

My doctor referred me to Compassion In Action – USA in March of 2003. Immediately, an Advocate from Compassion personally took my application to the Medi-Cal office and went through the application process for me as my Representative. I was too sick to stand in line for the more than 5 hours that are required for application. Approval was given in late March. At the same time, application was made for Social Security Disability as my State Disability would end in early June of 2003. An Advocate accompanied me to my appointment and guided me through the process. My U.S. Congressman's office was contacted on June 3rd and given additional medical documentation to back up my disability which they forwarded to their contact at Social Security and approval was given for Social Security Disability in late June of 2003. I immediately received payment back to March of 2002.

At the time that Compassion In Action –USA started working with me I was fully convinced I could not get Medi-Cal and I didn't even know I should have applied for Social Security Disability months before. I was told by many friends that Social Security Disability takes months, sometimes years to be approved and always after multiple denials. We were all amazed to see that I was approved in less than 3 months. The medical care I have been receiving over the past 6 weeks literally saved me from losing my feet. I would not have received this care if Compassion In Action –USA had not stepped in to help me when they did.

They are still working with me to fight the decision on my Worker's Comp and are assisting me with verifying any other benefits I am now eligible for through my Union. I am very grateful for the help they have given me and recommend this organization for the time, energy, and compassion they give their clients and for the speedy delivery of services.

Sincerely,

Lynn