



From Your Founder, Florence Pecoraro-Egan

Since 1992, the day after completing my undergraduate degree at Mercy College in Therapeutic Recreation and my CTRS (Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist) certification, I have come to learn what TR really means! I was hit by a van that day and my life was never the same again! Although I did go on to finish my Master of Science in Education, I would never experience the lesson I learned back on that day in the early ninety's! I had 12 broken bones and a crushed pelvis, cuts from head to toe, and my face needed stitches on the scene due to a gaping hole in my upper lip. After 10 days in intensive care and 20 in the hospital, I also needed 6 months of rehabilitation. My passion for skiing and bicycle riding kept me hanging in there and working hard at healing! I remembered all the important aspects of TR and used them to come to my own treatment plan! TR for ill or injured people truly increases their stamina, outlook, hope, and overall ability to cope and heal! And it surely helped me! My goal was to ski as soon as medically possible, and when I got the OK, I was out on the slopes!

But even way before that time, back in my childhood, after my brother's death from Leukemia in 1973, I realized I wanted to have a career in the "helping" fields..... I felt a strong appreciation for Recreation, Art, and Music, realizing that my brother would have had a much better quality of life if he had more opportunity to play his guitar and join a group of children for adaptive art or fitness sessions in the hospital. It was very hard emotionally for my parents and me at that time, dealing with losing him. I suffered from depression and severe anxiety at age 16 stemming from the adjustment period after his death without any counseling or therapy. My parents had their share of emotional scars, as well... I'm sure TR would have helped us back then...

Over two decades later, I came to realize that so much has improved health care and human services. We now truly look at the whole person rather than just the illness. We look at the person's ABILITIES, whether typically or differently-abled. We realize that a person's mind, body, and spirit all work together. Spirituality and family support are major factors in mind/body health. Personally, my will to ski and bike again, as well as my involvement with my family and church, had motivated me and given me self-confidence and enthusiasm toward my own recovery!

My life continued on an upward path as wonderful – marriage, three beautiful children, continuing my Education, and enjoying a career in art and TR. Unfortunately, in 2006, my son was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. He had endured more pain and suffering than I would ever want to believe, and still is experiencing a life of hospital procedures, medications, diet, and procedures and treatments. He is the reason I founded Fun For Cure, Inc., although my brother's death at 9 years old set the foundation. I put a small blurb about my son in our website, when he was accidentally medically overdosed and had to needlessly suffer from the toxemia for a long period of time – in addition to all his Crohn's ailments.

The reason I love my position as Founder and President of Fun For Cure, Inc. is because I get to honor both my brother and son by helping other children like them. I hope you can join our free

membership and benefit from the free programs and services we offer. Thank you for reading my story and being a part of Fun For Cure, Inc.

Florence Pecoraro MEd, Founder

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