



Peer Visitation Program

What is Peer Visitation?

Peer visitation offers trauma patients the opportunity to talk with a trained volunteer who has experienced the aftermath of a serious injury. TSN peer visitors understand the concerns of trauma patients on a personal level, the TSN peer visitor can relate to the uncertainty they may have about recovery, and offer understanding and tips for getting through the day. Most importantly, they are there to listen.

What are the benefits of talking with a peer visitor?

- Getting answers to questions from the perspective of someone who has lived through a similar experience
- Learning practical tips about recovery and how to move forward
- Receiving encouragement and support
- Feeling less anxious and alone

Meet our Trauma Peer Visitors



Kelsie Igasan

Kelsie suffered multiple sport related traumatic brain injuries as a youth that resulted in mental health struggles and addiction. She is an attempted suicide survivor who suffered an open fracture of her right Tibia and Fibula and a Subdural Hematoma. She has been in addiction recovery since 2006 and currently has over two years of sobriety. She is happily married with small children and hopes that sharing her story can help others on their path to healing.

Mike Ruth and Missie Ruth



“My name is Michael Ruth and I am a trauma survivor. Before my near fatal motorcycle crash I was an HVAC technician for Sanger Unified School District and was going to school to become a teacher. I have been recovering from the emotional and physical pain from my crash for the last 4 years. I am now starting a new normal by becoming a substitute teacher for Visalia Unified School District as well as giving back to other trauma survivors at Community Regional Medical Center. I continue to grow and learn with my new normal, and as hard as it may be I've learned that you just have to keep pushing forward.”

“Hello my name is Missie Ruth and I am a preschool teacher for Kaweah Delta Hospital. I enjoy crafting and quilting in my spare time. In 2009 my mother and father were in a horrible auto accident in which my mother spent time in the trauma unit and my father spent time in the regular section of the hospital. Four years ago my husband got in a near fatal motorcycle accident which changed our lives forever. Even though there is a new normal and we face different challenges every day, my family and I are thankful he is still here with us today. We are also thankful for the doctors at Community Regional Medical Center for helping my husband.”

Contact Eliana Troncale for more information on scheduling a peer visit for a patient.

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