

Sue K.

Her story:

Sue K. loved her life! At 58, she had the job of her dreams, administering a small non-profit agency, enjoyed living on a small hobby farm with her husband and loved travelling the world. She had an active social life and was looking forward the retirement she and her husband had planned and saved for over many years.

But gradually, and insidiously, illness overcame her. Gradually she was able to do less and less. Her daily dog walks, once the highlight of her day, became a chore. Eventually she could only sit in the car and watch the dogs play as others walked them. Headaches, nausea, sore bones, dizziness, and a profound and overwhelming fatigue became her constant experience. Work was no longer possible, and she was forced to resign the job she loved.

Within months of leaving work, she was bedridden, no longer able to tolerate bright lights or loud sounds. Movements in the room would overwhelm her. Her symptoms became worse. Her husband became her caregiver. Despite a sympathetic physician, there were no medical answers. Weeks turned into months.

Finally, she was referred to one of the only physicians in BC knowledgeable about ME, who began to turn things around for her. Slowly, with appropriate care, she improved. Now, 8 years later, she is still primarily homebound, but with aggressive management of her disease, able to participate in family life, and contribute to the work of the ME/FM Society of BC.