

NEXUS CHAMPION

SHERRI FOSTER



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After being diagnosed with esophageal cancer, Sherri Foster underwent chemotherapy and radiation leading up to surgery to remove part of her esophagus. At first, she was doing well post-surgery until infection set in and she became septic. As a result, Sherri was put on a ventilator and placed in the ICU of a local hospital.

Unable to wean off the ventilator for nearly a month, Sherri was sent to a long-term acute care (LTAC) facility. There, she went into respiratory failure and later congestive heart failure.

“After more complications, I was told I would never come off the ventilator,” she explained. “The conversation turned to hospice or transferring me to a skilled nursing facility because they said I would never be any more than what I was on ventilator.”

At that point, Sherri and her family did research on other facilities in the area that could help her. Finally, a couple months later, she transferred to Nexus Specialty Hospital.

“Five days after I arrived at Nexus, I was off the ventilator and never went back,” she said.

Sherri doesn't remember the staff at the first LTAC being aggressive about weaning her from the ventilator, but she clearly recalls how the staff at Nexus Specialty Hospital never gave up on her.

“The staff at Nexus were phenomenal,” she said. “I’ll never forget the day the respiratory therapist came in and told me the plan. They had confidence that I could be taken off the ventilator and they were right.”

Sherri spent about a month at Nexus Specialty Hospital, working hard to regain her strength and skills. She explained the physical and occupational therapy were great, and went on to share, **“I had been bed bound since February, so when the therapists first came to see me, I just cried and told them I couldn't get out of bed. The occupational therapist got down in front of me and told me she wouldn't accept that. I got up that day and walked a few steps and sat up in the chair for a few hours.”**

Today, Sherri is cancer free, back working full time, and living a great life. She doesn't know what exactly motivated her to fight to get off the ventilator, but it was an answer to her prayers.

“Everyone at Nexus Specialty Hospital was always there for me. They were attentive and responsive, and really, they were determined for me when I wasn't able to be that way for myself,” she said. “In my new job as a clinical liaison, I was able to stop at the hospital and see everyone who took care of me. I thanked them for not letting me say no and for being a huge support.”

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