



Kathy Church, MSW

Kathy Church is the mother of one and an advocate for improved pain care. She has been living with chronic pain for over fifteen years. While on active duty in the Army, Kathy suffered a surgical blunder which led to massive scarring and over thirteen major surgeries to her abdomen.

After receiving a medical discharge from the Army, Kathy enrolled as a social work major at Christopher Newport University. Despite enduring months of hospitalizations and five major surgeries, Kathy graduated summa cum laude with highest honors. She received her master's degree in clinical social work from Virginia Commonwealth University.

After ten years of unrelieved suffering, in 2003 Kathy received an intrathecal pain pump which is effective in managing her pain. Kathy now travels the country working to improve care for those who endure chronic pain. She has testified at the governmental level on the needs of pain patients and better education for physicians in pain care. In recognition of her efforts, in 2008 the National Pain Foundation presented Kathy its annual Triumph Award.

Kathy is an amateur oboist with the Tucson Concert Band. She currently lives with her husband, daughter, and three pets near Tucson, Arizona.