

Tori Cameron Story

I Have Somebody to Live For

As with many of our patients, Tori Cameron worked hard doing physical labor all his life—honorable work and necessary. It just doesn't come with insurance. For most of his working life, he poured concrete in Atlanta construction sites. When his wife's health declined because of thyroid cancer, she had to quit work. The family moved to Coweta County, and Tori began work as the maintenance man at their apartment complex.

Together they had raised three of their four children by working hard and pulling together. But when Tori's wife died on Memorial Day 2016, their last daughter Chantel was only 12. Tori's initial reaction was despair. "What am I going to do? Now it's on me." The last five years have been difficult. In addition to raising a teenager, Tori developed heart disease and could no longer fulfill his maintenance duties. "It's been a hard road to walk. But I have somebody to live for. I have three children who are grown and doing well, and I have one more to finish. I don't question what God does. I just accept what comes."

Two years ago, Tori's heart doctor, Garry McCulloch (Piedmont Heart Institute, Newnan), connected him with Coweta Samaritan Clinic so that Tori could have access to primary care with Rhonda Whitton, (Nurse Practitioner). "The good Lord's been making a way for me ever since. My cardiologist helped me with my heart, but then what? The Clinic has given me a second chance at life," Tori believes. "I have good days, and I have bad days. I'm doing the best I can to do what Rhonda and the team at the Clinic tell me to do."

In addition to primary care, Tori receives all his medications through the Clinic's Patient Assistance Program. He has received glasses through the Clinic, and social worker Amy Kelly (Community Case Manager) is working with Tori to help him access disability support. At present, he and his daughter are living on the social security benefits Tori is eligible for from his late wife. Chantel attends virtual classes at Newnan High School to safeguard her father's health and "steps up to help me with whatever I need," says Tori. She hopes to continue her education after graduating from NHS.

Because Tori receives primary care at the Clinic and assistance from Amy Kelly with social services, Tori and his daughter are coping with a difficult situation. In effect, the Clinic is a safety net not just for Tori, but also for Chantel. Their family is intact, and they are hopeful for the future. Tori sums it up, "I was alright, but when my wife died, my health was going down, and I couldn't work. People in situations like me need help. When people tell me that nobody cares, I tell them, 'You aren't with the right people.' These people at the Clinic act from the heart. This is real to me, and I'm very grateful."