

There are “Yes” people in this world and there are “No” people . . .

Our patient Frank, who has suffered most of his 54 years with unceasing pain, has met a lot of “No” people. When Frank looked for help, the answer was usually “No, we can’t treat you without insurance.” Or, “No, we can’t treat you because you don’t live in this county.” Or worst of all, “No, we don’t know how to help you.”

As far back as he can remember, bony lumps have grown around Frank’s face and head, causing pain and making him look different. Over the years, the bone in Frank’s head has grown very thick in places, putting intense pressure on his brain and right ear, causing an abscess and profound hearing loss.

Despite the pain, Frank followed in his father’s footsteps and learned to operate heavy equipment. He loved it and worked in that field for 20 years. He didn’t work steadily—to deal with the excruciating pain, he drank. He was jailed for six years for DUIs. For about a year, Frank lived on the streets, not caring “whether the world turned or not. Some of the things I did, I wouldn’t have done without the pain. I didn’t want to be around anybody. I didn’t want to see anyone. It was because of the way I felt, I was trying to cover the pain.”

At last, Frank found hope.

“I was living on Elm Street, and one day when my head was hurting, something told me to walk over to the clinic.”

Frank didn’t even have a birth certificate or a picture ID, but the Clinic staff were able to help him get the forms submitted so he could be treated. Frank had finally met “Yes” people. Frank believes, “It’s a miracle I walked up there. Rhonda (nurse practitioner) explained it to me, it wasn’t that people didn’t want to help me, but they didn’t know how to help me.”

Dr. Kay Crosby began to search the Clinic’s network of connections for a surgeon with the knowledge—and the courage—to help Frank. Another “Yes” came from Dr. Mohammad Seyyedi, an ear, nose, and throat (ENT)



surgeon at the Medical College of Georgia – Augusta University (MCG – AU). As a teaching hospital, MCG – AU gave permission for Dr. Seyyedi to operate on Frank to relieve the massive pressure and infection in his brain and ear. What they learned from the operation not only helped Frank, it also contributed knowledge that will help other patients.

“It’s a privilege to help Frank. And it’s self-rewarding. I don’t know any other way to practice medicine.”

Dr. Mohammad Seyyedi

Dr. Seyyedi grew up in Mashad, a city in Iran.

“My mother is a retired anesthesiologist and my father was a plastic surgeon. They worked for many years in an underserved area. Because they were the only doctors in their area, they took care of everyone and did what was needed. If there was a trauma, my father and mother would donate two units of blood for the patient and then do the surgery. My mother served as the anesthesiologist.”

Frank remembers meeting Dr. Seyyedi. “He’s always very positive when he comes in. I was scared when I went

in, but he said, ‘I can solve it.’” In an intense, eight-hour surgery, Dr. Seyyedi and an ENT resident, Dr. Luke Edelmayer, removed overgrown skull bone equivalent in size to two scoops of ice cream, and then closed off Frank’s ear canal. Frank will never get his hearing back in that ear, but the surgery solved the problem of the pain and abscess. In May, when it was clear that there was no longer any infection, Dr. Seyyedi and Dr. Edelmayer operated again, this time to fill the cavity behind Frank’s ear with his own tissue, and then to close off the drain.

“Everything is so much clearer without the pain,” Frank says. “Everything is different. I still don’t believe it. I’ve been in pain all my life, and now the pain is gone.”

Frank is not cured of his difficult condition. He never will be. But he can rest easy now, knowing that he has a medical home. In keeping with our mission to care for our neighbors and in the spirit of Dr. Seyyedi’s parents, Coweta Samaritan Clinic will do everything in its power to make him better.

Thank you for helping to make the lives of our neighbors healthier, bearable, sometimes even pain free.