

Rene Collazo

How long have you been in this arts program?

0:06

Six years.

Do you think the program is helpful?

0:10

Oh yes when I started was when just going to church and then I heard of this lady named Belinda and then after a day that I ended up to this place and ever since it's been six years.

What's your favorite part of the arts program?

0:38

Wells I like all of it. I never done it before you know, I just did it at school but then being in this place and I enjoyed it and then to know all these other people and all that we all have aphasia and it's been going good.

What's your favorite project from previous camps?

1:02

When we did like these things here. And then with the with paints, we did those paints and then doing pottery and stuff like that.

When you first started were you able to talk in sentences?

1:26

At first I didn't know nothing, you know until I had somebody would have done you know, doing all kinds of writing words and pictures and all that and then to learn about like being in a room and knowing things in saying and what we writes.

Do you remember how difficult it was when you started this program?

2:01

I didn't know much and all that I mean I was just you know, and then that's when I will learn how to write stuff. You know and the words and now it's with what do you call it? "The whiteboard." Yeah, those with those. And then the person will say the word and then I would just listen you know, hear it and then and say okay, then now I'll say the words that was the word. The end of the word.

Has the STAR program helped to improve your quality of life?

2:41

Yes to learn more and you know like now I can like I can go to the store and I can try to do on my own and all that. And then sometimes where then I forget that I don't get from the store or something and I come back home and then she'll tell me or and say like oh well you forgot and you know, just playing, and I and then I was like Okay then I'll go again. And then you going to restaurants and stores then when I go to church and then when I go to therapy here at the hospital and then be with the friends know so I liked it

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Right after your stroke did you still have a lot of friends that came around or did you feel alone?

3:39

Yeah I'd just be at home. You know and like that and then when I started with this, and learn more about the therapy and then and then to learn more about aphasia. And then I learn more day by day.

Did you know what aphasia was when you started this program?

4:03

The only thing I knew is that I had a stroke. And then after that and then after now, I know about aphasia.

How does it feel when you know what you want to say but can't find the words?

4:13

Oh yes. "How do you feel?" Oh, so yeah, sometimes I'll be like, I know it. I know it. I know it. And then after a minute I'll say like, oh there, and then I'll finish it.