



Paula Lazzeri
Wife, Mother, Treasurer, The Transverse
Myelitis Association, Tax Accountant

Paula is a member of the large and caring Peltier family; she is one of seven siblings. Paula married Michael Lazzeri in 1986. Myk is a physical therapist. Myk and Paula had their son, Jesse, in 1992. Paula's pregnancy and delivery and Myk's and Paula's parenting is a wonderful and inspiring story which is published in Volume 3 Issue 1 of the TMA Newsletter (and I encourage you to read it). The Lazzeri's live in Redmond, Washington.

Paula graduated with a BA from the School of Business, the University of Washington in 1989. She has worked for the Attachmate Corporation as a Tax Accountant since 1989.

Paula contracted TM at the age of 12, just two months into the 7th grade. At the onset she could not move her arms and legs and had trouble breathing. More than twenty years later, she remains a C6-7 incomplete paraplegic with majority use of her arms and hands.

She is able to weight bear on her legs and is able to do pivot transfers from wheelchair to van, toilet, and couch. She cannot feel temperature and pain from her chest C6 level down, but does feel that tingly sensation and has many spasms. After the onset of TM, her doctors noticed that she had a slight curve to her spine (scoliosis). By her 3rd TM anniversary, the scoliosis had progressed so far that she only had an inch of space between her breast and backbone. Since there was danger to her heart, the decision was made to fully fuse her spine using metal compression rods.

Paula became the Treasurer of The Transverse Myelitis Association in 1996. Paula is responsible for all of the financial operations of the Association. That role includes all of the accounting and reporting tasks that are required, but it also entails an enormous number of obligations that are not so readily apparent. Paula is also responsible for all of the federal and state filings that are required by the IRS and the various state agencies around the country that regulate the activities of not-for-profit organizations. It is an enormous job, and Paula does it efficiently and professionally.

Paula is also an integral member of the TMA Board and is involved in all of the routine and not-so-routine operations of the Association. Paula is also a great support to all of those with TM who are in contact with her. She provides information and support to many families who are seeking guidance when their child contracts TM. She is also a source of information and support for every family that contacts the Association regarding pregnancy and delivery with TM.

Paula truly is a member of an awesome family. She spends countless hours doing the work of the Association in large part because she has such a loving and supportive husband and son; Myk and Jesse support her in everything she does.

Life has blessed me with a number of heroes. Paula Lazzeri is right at the top of my list. She is a remarkable person. She is intelligent, competent and is a professional. Her independence and self-confidence are inspiring. She has so much care, concern, kindness and empathy for others; and she is generous beyond words with her time and energy and resources. She is a unique person. I am blessed to have Paula for a friend. And she is my hero!

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