



Robert and his wife, JoAnn, chatting on their front porch.

Robert Timmons: Blossoming after a brain injury

Robert Timmons survived a nine-foot fall from a ladder, but his life afterward fell to pieces. The 69-year-old sustained a brain injury that left him unable to work, drive, or do other routine tasks.

When Robert returned home after more than a month of rehabilitation, he was confused and belligerent, his family says. He couldn't remember appointments, find things in his house, or recall familiar words. And the former landscaping supervisor — who was injured on the job — had difficulty learning new information and making decisions.

"I felt I had lost my husband — especially when he called me Grandmom," says Robert's wife, JoAnn.

Cognitive therapy at home

Now, thanks to Bancroft Brain Injury Services, Robert's life is back on track. He can drive and use power tools again. He's more social and much less confused, with a "wonderful disposition," reports JoAnn.

"He's phenomenal now!" says daughter Denise Smith Greene. "We think he is 90-percent back."

"I'm pretty much back to normal," agrees the amiable father and grandfather.

Indeed, Bancroft helped Robert regain many of his former skills, through a variety of individual and group therapies. For instance, Bancroft provided cognitive rehabilitation two days a week in Robert's home, to help him master

strategies for organizing his personal routines, improving his memory, and compensating for his challenges.

Among other techniques, he learned how to use a daily organizer, and labeled items throughout his home. And staff re-taught him how to multi-task — for instance, answer the phone while making a sandwich — without becoming overwhelmed.

Vocational rehab at work

Plus, Robert blossomed in Bancroft's supported employment program, says his family: He enjoyed — and was motivated by — working on the program's outdoor clean-up crew, where he relearned job-related skills.

As a result of this comprehensive approach, **Robert met his rehabilitation goals in just four months.** Today, Robert's routine includes driving his grandson to and from work each day, doing yardwork and laundry, and relaxing with his family in their South Jersey home.

"The program was very beneficial for him," says JoAnn. "He's come along far better than I'd hoped for. He has no problem doing things for himself and getting along... I'm very thankful he can drive and function."

Bancroft Brain Injury Services "was very good," says Robert. "The therapists and everyone were really nice. They took care of what I needed to have taken care of."

"What a successful experience we had at Bancroft. We never thought [my dad] would be able to drive or handle his daily activities. He's phenomenal now. We think he is 90 percent back!

"The routine that [Bancroft's cognitive therapist] put him on, he is still practicing now. We can't believe it — he still uses all the strategies, keeps notes and uses his organizer. It's been two months, and he's still doing it!

By [the cognitive therapist] coming out to our home, he was able to fine-tune everything my dad learned in [outpatient] therapy. This has really helped him at home, and is helping him lead a fulfilling life."

— Denise Smith Greene,
daughter of Robert Timmons



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Program Description

Led by a team of experienced clinicians, our Home and Community Programs take a focused approach to helping individuals with acquired brain injuries maximize functional independence and community re-integration.

To learn more about Bancroft programs for people with acquired brain injuries or to apply for admission, please call **toll-free: (800) 774-5516** or visit **www.bancroft.org**.