

INSPIRING HOPE

Reggie and Maria Roundtree - 7 1/2 years post LVAD and feeling blessed

Reggie (57) is a long-time valued member of our group who had a massive heart attack in October 2009 involving the left anterior descending artery, commonly called the "widow maker". At that time, Reggie had a pacemaker/defibrillator implanted. God was looking out for Reggie and Maria. However, in December 2009, he had a second massive heart attack. At that time, his family made funeral arrangements.



Being a former substance abuse counsellor at Talbot Hall at Ohio State, Reggie was equipped with the tools for heart healthy survival. Within 2 months, in January 2010, Reggie received an LVAD (left ventricular assist device). This is a heart pump which allows someone in heart failure to stay alive with the opportunity for a heart transplant. Reggie received the "Heart Mate 2" which allows the right chamber of the heart to heal by taking over the pumping for the left chamber of the heart. The Heart Mate 2 operates on 2 rechargeable 12 hour batteries and Reggie has to be cognizant of power outages. Reggie feels blessed because 7 1/2 years post LVAD, he is doing well.

Reggie continues to be active in the Africentric Community and Church, playing African Drums, and enjoying life with his beautiful wife, Maria, a fashion designer in her own right. Together, they formed an African dance group and perform at festivals and they also do heart walks and other fundraising events. Reggie is a spokesman for our group and explains heart healthy living with an LVAD. He is in the "bridge to transplant" program and Reggie and Maria's faith in God enable them to look to the future and give back when they can.

With an LVAD, Reggie maintains his lifestyle with only four daily medications: Warfarin, Coreg, Simvastatin, and Furosemide.

Reggie and Maria's dream is to return to Ghana West Africa to live in their beach home.

If you've had a similar experience, or would just like to talk to Reggie about living with heart disease, email him at urroundtree@yahoo.com or call at (614) 483-0955

Mended Hearts of Central Ohio

www.MendedHeartsCentralOhio.org - jadavidson@columbus.rr.com - 614-580-1561

It is great to be alive – and to help others