



By Sam Upshaw Jr., The Courier-Journal

Virginia Drummond, 70, suffered a stroke six years ago and welcomes new research. "Anything that can help would be good," she said.

Feeling better, but welcoming research

Virginia Drummond's stroke came without warning; its effects lingered like an unwanted guest.

After the stroke six years ago, she spent a long time in the hospital, unconscious for much of it, she said.

When she woke up, her face felt twisted, her side was weak and she needed a wheelchair. She was sent to speech and physical therapy.

Her rehabilitation continued outside the hospital. "After I got out, the nurse came, and I kept walking farther and farther," said Drummond, who is 70 and lives in Louisville.

She's much better now,

she said. Her leg brace is gone, and she gets around without a wheelchair. But she can't raise one arm as high as the other because of the stroke.

A stroke happens when a blood vessel is blocked, robbing a part of the brain of oxygen. That can cause damage that affects vision, speech, movement and memory.

Some scientists hope stem cells might help stroke victims repair such damage.

Drummond, a former housekeeper at the Galt House hotel, said she welcomes developments that could aid research.

"Anything that can help would be good," she said.

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CORPORATECARING

Stroke Awareness Day will find volunteer busy

BY JENNIFER GORDON
BUSINESS FIRST STAFF WRITER

Virginia Drummond already has May 14 marked on her calendar. That is the Kentucky and Southern Indiana Stroke Association's Stroke Awareness Day Health Fair at Mall St. Matthews. The fair is held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The mall is full and we have a whole lot of booths," said Drummond, who is 50 years old. She is a volunteer and board member of the Kentucky and Southern Indiana Stroke Association.



Volunteer Spotlight: Virginia Drummond

Age: 50

Residence: Newburg Road area

Volunteer group: The Kentucky and Southern Indiana Stroke Association

Volunteer recalls her stroke

Drummond recalls her experiences six years ago when she had a stroke.

She was in her kitchen preparing to go to the grocery store when one of her legs felt weak, so she sat down to rest. By the time she got up her other leg also was feeling weak so she called an ambulance. At the hospital they discovered she had a stroke, heart attack and aneurysm.

The story is one she often relates at support group meetings and stroke association events.

"With the help of the Lord, I come through mine," Drummond said.

She also attends diabetes support group meetings and encourages other members to eat right, exercise and have a positive attitude.

"All I can do is tell them what I know, and they can take it from there," Drummond said. "I just get up in the morning and thank the Lord for taking care of me."

Contact the writer via e-mail at JGORDON@BIZJOURNALS.COM.

Stroke Awareness Day Health Fair

Date: Saturday, May 14

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Mall St. Matthews

Organizer: The Kentucky and Southern Indiana Stroke Association

Sponsor: Jewish Hospital Emergency Stroke Center

Supporting sponsors: Norton Healthcare Inc., University Hospital Stroke Center and Baptist Hospital East

For more information: Log on to www.strokekyin.org.



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for Corporate Caring such as news, photos of recent events or recommendations for Volunteer Spotlight, contact Judith Berzof at 583-1731 or via e-mail at jberzof@bizjournals.com.