



**Kentucky and  
So. Indiana**

## **Stroke Association**

A Chapter of the National Stroke Association

Serving Kentucky and Southern Indiana Communities

[www.strokekyin.org](http://www.strokekyin.org)

502 / 499-5757

## **MEET JERRY PERKINS! OUR BIGGEST FAN!**



The Kentucky and Southern Indiana Stroke Association is proud to announce our biggest fan! Jerry Perkins recently turned 62 and he is happy to be “officially” retired. This Sagittarius go-getter worked as a tour guide at Mammoth Cave while in college at Western Kentucky University. He then spent many years in customer service at the Kentucky Derby Museum before moving on to the Kentucky Center for the Arts as a floor manager.

In February of 2007, while Jerry was coordinating a performance there for 1200 students, he began to feel badly disoriented and as if his feet wouldn't move the way he wanted them to, especially on his left side. As many people do, Jerry tried to ignore these feelings. His co-workers kept asking him if he felt okay. Jerry went home and by the time he was walking in to walls, his partner Humphrey insisted that Jerry go to the hospital.

Turns out, Jerry had suffered an ischemic stroke, the most common type, caused by a blood clot in the brain. Jerry is a determined sort, and spent almost 8 months focusing on intensive rehabilitation twice a week. Now, five years later, Jerry feels he has improved 85% or more. During this time, Jerry joined the St. Mary's stroke support group. He is very outgoing and has made many new friends.

In 2009 he began volunteering for KSISA. Jerry talks with everyone he knows about stroke and the importance of knowing the warning signs. He believes in our mission of stroke education to his core. If he had known about stroke symptoms in 2007 he may have been treated more rapidly and saved more brain tissue.

Jerry volunteers with KSISA as often as possible. He talks with the public about his stroke and encourages others that have suffered a stroke to get back out in the community and get involved. His dream is that everyone will know the warning signs of stroke some day. The motto he lives by is AWARE and SHARE. Jerry has recommended our organization to many survivors and helped them along the path to recovery with encouragement and warmth. He is always there to hand out materials at health fairs and is personally singing our praises and promoting our organization to others. He is definitely our biggest fan!