

## THRIVING DOWNTOWN CASE REPORT

“Patty” is a 75 year-old woman who had been living independently, walking 3-5 miles a day and still working part-time as a caregiver for San Diego County’s IHSS program when she was inexplicably attacked by a homeless woman on a downtown sidewalk. The assault left her with three fractures in her right hip, but fortunately no head injuries. Following surgical repair and over a month of inpatient rehab services at Balboa Skilled Nursing and Rehab, she was cleared to return home to Cathedral Plaza, a federally subsidized senior apartment tower downtown. At this time in April 2014, a social worker at Balboa referred Patty to us.

*Attacked by a homeless woman...  
left her with **three fractures** in  
her right hip.*

We were able to transport her home and assist with cleaning out her refrigerator, purchasing fresh groceries and doing her laundry. Over the course of the first few months after transitioning home, we drove her to church, outpatient therapy sessions at Balboa, and follow-up visits with her orthopedic surgeon and primary care doctor. Without our help, these basic tasks would have been very difficult for her as she had moved to San Diego shortly before the incident occurred and had a limited network of friends. She has five supportive children, but they all live out-of-state and are busy with kids of their own.

We also were able to provide support and guidance with legal issues. We accompanied her to court so that she could make a statement at her attacker’s sentencing hearing. We went with her to see her worker’s compensation attorney who was able to secure a modest cash settlement from the county, and we continue to advocate for her with San Diego’s “Victim’s Compensation Fund” to help pay for bills associated with ongoing medical issues. Because her income is too high to qualify for Medi-Cal, she has incurred a significant co-pay burden.

After a year of support through Thriving Downtown, she is able to ambulate long distances without any assistive device and is comfortable using public transportation. She was able to fly to Chicago and Denver to see family. She hasn’t yet returned to work, but she is beginning to look for a suitable position and volunteers at her church. We remain in touch and accompany her to pick up heavy grocery items, such as cases of bottled water, about once a month. She is very appreciative of having a resource for additional assistance just a phone call away.

*“We were able to provide  
**support & guidance.**”*