

White Cane Awareness Month

MY MOBILITY SOLUTION: HAD A LIFELONG DREAM COME TRUE



A brown haired woman wearing thick glasses and turtleneck sitting with a labrador retriever guide dog on a blue backdrop.

1994 was the time when I was ready to make some changes in my life. First one I was going to be real with myself. I needed to be real about my visual impairment to the public. Saying that didn't mean that I was going to use it all the time. It was time for me to get a WHITE CANE.

I was busy. I was getting a second Master's degree, working, and not living with my family. Life was very busy! I called Services for Blind and told them I was requesting for a WHITE CANE. The representative said that I will need Orientation and Mobility training and the O&M will set up an appointment. He and I were playing phone tag (before cell phones). I was anxious to meet with the gentleman because I was planning a trip to Ohio and that was going to be the first time I had flown by myself without a family member. At that time, I had 20/200 vision in my good eye. However, I was having more high glaucoma pressures and corneal edema. Therefore, very cloudy days of vision. I was not going to be able to read all the signs in the airport. In addition, I have hearing loss.

He finally reached out to me on a late Friday afternoon.

He wanted to come over right then. I panicked, I'd never met this man and he was going to come over to my house! Luckily, I had a friend who was over and I asked her if she could stay just for a couple minutes to know I was safe.

He said he was so excited to meet me because I was the highest functioning Congenital Rubella Syndrome baby that he had ever heard of. He had only met clients who were in state institutions. He asked, "Can I give you a full assessment?" I said to myself, "Here I go being the guinea pig." It took two hours.

Well, we began our 4-6 week training. I learned a lot! Like, assess an intersection before you cross it, know the pattern of the intersection. Drivers notice movement so make sure when you're crossing the street, you move your cane left to right. Along the way, we learned that we both were geeks.

I was transferring to a new teaching position where I would be on a regular elementary school campus instead of a specialized school. I wanted to learn more about my Mac I had bought. He had promised to teach me some new things.

We were about to finish our lessons and he had not taught me any computer tips. He was all business. I got mad and said, "You were going to teach me some computer skills?!" His response was, "I would rather take you on a date." Jaw dropped. I turned him down. I had a long distance one-sided ex-boyfriend. He left his number in 24 font on my computer. I thought it over and he was very funny. One of his lines to me was that he was remarkable because Kramer is "remark" backwards. I called him up and said a woman can change her mind and it is just one date. A year later we were married. We were married from 1995-2001. Sadly, he was killed by a driver running a RED LIGHT! To his great accomplishments, he helped put many audible signals in the Las Vegas Community. He made me a very independent woman. Thank you Mr. Kramer for giving me many gifts!



Woman wearing a wedding dress and holding a bouquet with a thick bearded man.