



**ST. BARNABAS
HEALTH SYSTEM**

724-444-5587

StBarnabasHealthSystem.com

Celebrating his recovery are patient Anthony Guerra and Kimberly Horton, RN, Director of Nurses, Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas.

Young Patient Smiles at Scars, Brush with Death

Anthony “Tony” Guerra has the scars to remind him of how close he came to never making his 27th birthday. His big, wide smile conveys his appreciation of the doctors who operated on him and the staff at Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas who healed his wounds and restored the mobility of his right leg and hip.

On Thursday before Easter 2014, Tony injured his leg while working on a fork lift. That weekend, at home with his parents in Gibsonia, he was feverish and vomiting. He wound up in Passavant’s ICU. The diagnosis: streptococcal septicemia.

Tony developed abscesses of the right hip and leg, complicated by electrolytes imbalance, dehydration, and toxic shock syndrome. Doctors determined the septicemia infection was attacking his leg, threatening the muscles. Immediate aggressive surgical debridement of the abscessed area was required to save his leg, and possibly, his life.

Ten hours of surgery resulted in a large wound area, which was left open for antibiotic treatment for a week, and then had to be treated, packed and wrapped daily. Tony was admitted to Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas on May 21 for advanced wound treatment with Q4H IV penicillin for eight consecutive days.

As the wound healed, Valencia’s rehab team applied therapy to strengthen and sustain the mobility of the leg and thigh muscles. So successful were the healing treatment and therapy that Tony was discharged to his home ten days after

admission. He returned to Valencia Woods the next month to show off his scars and thank the staff for their care.

“I am so grateful to everyone for my recovery. When I look at my scars and realize the life-threatening danger of the infection, I am overwhelmed,” Tony admitted and then added with a huge grin, “just think of all the attention I’ll get wearing shorts.” 🏠

Anthony Guerra is just one of the many patients cared for by the medical and rehabilitation teams at St. Barnabas facilities. Many patients must rely upon the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund, which last year provided \$6,013,000 in charity care. Please join in this effort by sending your gift to St. Barnabas Charities, 5850 Meridian Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

If you need help, talk to our team about facilitating a smooth transition and fast healing for post surgery recovery including:

- Wound Care
- Stroke and Cardiac Care
- Physical and Aqua Therapy
- Occupational and Speech Therapy

For more information about Rehabilitation Therapy at St. Barnabas, call 724-444-5587 or email vfink@stbarnabashealthsystem.com.

Extensive scarring testifies to Anthony Guerra’s life-threatening battle with septicemia and to the successful advanced wound treatment he received at Valencia Woods at St. Barnabas.



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