

From: Social Security Administration, Office of External Affairs <oea.net.post@ssa.gov>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 2/11/2015 8:28:05 AM
Subject: Meet Larry and Help Share His Story

Dear Colleague:

Meet Larry, one of the many people receiving Social Security disability insurance benefits whose stories too often do not make the headlines.

Larry suffers from congestive heart failure. Although his condition severely restricts his activity, he works as a cashier with the help of the [Ticket to Work](#) program. His goal is to get a better paying job and, when he is able, stop receiving Social Security. In December, we marked the 15th Anniversary of the Ticket to Work program, which helps people with disabilities, like Larry, who want to join or return to the workforce.

I invite you to take a moment to imagine what life would be like for you and your family if a disability like Larry's struck you unexpectedly. How would you cope? How would you pay your bills? Social Security disability is insurance that workers earn and contribute toward through taxes on their earnings. When a severe disability takes away a person's ability to work, Social Security is there to provide a critical lifeline.

Below is a link to a video through which Larry shares his story. After viewing the video, we hope you will be moved to select "Share" to place it on your organization's website, include it in your social media posts, and distribute it to your email lists. By sharing Larry's story, you can help us spread the word that our programs serve as vital financial protection for working men and women, children, the disabled, and the elderly when they need it most.

Select the image above to view or share the video. Please visit our [Faces and Facts of Disability](#) website for more personal stories, illuminating facts, and ready-to-publish educational materials. Please take advantage of these materials and help us convey the important message to the public that we need to protect this vital program for our most vulnerable citizens—those living with severe disabilities.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Sincerely,

Maria Artista-Cuchna
Acting Associate Commissioner
for External Affairs

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Social Security Administration, 3409 Annex 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235 United States