

Healthcare for the Homeless

Dear Dr. Alijanian and team members,

My name is Joe Fortuna. I am 53 years old and immigrated to the United States with my family as a young man. I had little formal education however, I was a hard worker. Over the years I worked many jobs, in the fields, as a mechanic and as a supervisor. Then due to an injury I fell upon hard times. I lost my job and became homeless and lost hope. My health deteriorated and I became infected with Hepatitis C and continued to have further health issues. I became a father of twins 3 years ago, however they were premature and unfortunately one of my sons died. Then I began to get health care and learned that with medication and lifestyle changes I might be able to improve my health. I stopped drinking and became more serious about my health. I was able to learn how to give myself Interferon injections. With the help of my doctor, my health is now improving. Through my illness and lack of health care, I lost most of my teeth. I am very self conscious about this and it has held me back from being involved in many activities. I am uncomfortable around people due to my appearance. I would like to have my teeth replaced with dentures. I think this would make me more comfortable and better able to participate in life and be a good example to my son. Sincerely, Joe



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We would like to thank the people who have made a difference in Joe's Life. Thank you!

- *Dr. Stephen Eriksen*
- *Lafayette Denture Lab*
- *Dr. Ali Alijanian*