

Good morning, my name is Lola Smith. I live in Grand Sr. Living in Dayton, Ohio. I serve on the Greater Dayton Premier Management Board of Commissioners and am a retired Nurse Practitioner. In 1973, while at work, I had my supplies and while climbing the steps, got winded. This type of thing continued for two years and in 1975, I went for a physical. I remember it was 11:15 and as time passed, I kept wondering what was wrong. It became 1:00 and a tech came in and said the doctors wanted to talk to me. Their first question was, "How many packs of cigarettes do you smoke a day?" I told them I don't smoke. They showed me my x-ray and my right lung was black. It had collapsed. They immediately admitted me and worked for several weeks to inflate my lung. It just kept collapsing. They scheduled me for surgery and cut me from the middle of my chest to the middle of my back.

God is good and I'm still here. But the doctors told me that this all happened because of second-hand smoke. I worked with a lot of smokers and they smoked all the time. They smoked at their desks, at breaks, at lunch and after work.

That's why I was so happy when Public Health started to work with Greater Dayton Premier Management to make all of their properties smoke-free. We first got a survey about how we would feel if our homes were to be smoke-free. Then Mr. Bruce came to the Grand to talk about why we were going smoke-free and the dangers of second-hand smoke. He talked about how it can come under the door, through the outlets. Public Health is helping smokers who want to quit, stop, by giving them patches and gum.

I cannot tell you how much it means to me and my friends that we no longer have to live in a place where others smoke. It almost killed me once, it's only because of God's grace that I'm alive today and I want to keep it that way.