



Polio Survivors Association

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation www.polioassociation.org
12720 La Reina Ave., Downey, CA 90242 (562) 862-4508

THE POLIO SURVIVOS ASSOCIATION STORY

By Nicole Arevalo, CSULB

DOWNEY, Calif. – Dec. 10, 2013 – Imagine that you wake up in a huge metal tank with just your head exposed. A few hours before, you were a healthy and active child or young adult. Imagine that you spend weeks or months restricted to this enormous steel cylinder, and months or years in a hospital.

Now, try to imagine how you would react. How would you cope? Every polio survivor is different, and every polio survivor found a way to cope with his or her disability. Many years later these same polio survivors were faced with new or increasing disability because of the late effects of polio, often called post-polio syndrome.

In 1974, a small group of post-polio outpatients of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center met to discuss some of their common concerns. Among these were their increasing weakness, pain and related health concerns. No physician seemed to understand or offer a credible diagnosis. As a result of this meeting, the Polio Survivors Association was formed a year later. The Polio Survivors Association was formed in February 1975 as a 501(c)(3) founded by current president Richard Daggett. The organization on average, provides electric generators for 12 members across Los Angeles County while the headquarters resides in Downey. It was organized primarily to respond to

this obvious need for health related information and a mechanism to share this information with other polio survivors around the world. The Polio Survivors Association was established to help polio survivors adjust to their new or increasing disability, and make lifestyle changes that would allow them to function their best in this new reality.

###