

Judy Eades



I'm 56 years old and had polio when I was 5 yrs old. It initially affected my entire body, but only settled in my right leg. Thus I have worn a long leg brace for about 50 years!!!!

I grew up in a family of ten, so had a big support ive family and still do!!! My husband and I have been married for 30 years and have 3 children. Our youngest child is a senior in college, so we are almost done raising kids.

I taught school for 10 years and then quit to raise kids. But, I have worked 3 days a week at a hospital since quitting the teaching. I am a unit secretary on the orthopedic floor. It's just enough for me. I do fill in and work extra when the full time gal takes a day off or vacations.

I have not had any problems with the poli o, fortunately, all these years. I've never been to a doctor for polio things. I simply have visited my brace shop to get brace repairs, new braces, etc. I knew someday I would have complications, and now that time is upon me. Thus, I am feeling like I need a support group. I plan to become more active in our local group. I am having some good knee pain and the dr. tells me that I have a valgus knee (which basically means a crooked knee). This is causing a bit of knee pain and sometimes a bit of back pain. I am dealing with it one day at a time. I hope to wait as long as possible for any type surgery. So there you have it.....Oh by the way, I grew up in Red Oak, Iowa on a farm and moved to Omaha, Nebraska after high school, where I remain.

I was born October 24, 1947. Before the age of 5 years, I had gotten polio. I had it all over my body, but it settled in my right leg and I have worn a leg brace since. I lived a good life on a farm by Red Oak, Iowa. I am the 4th youngest child out of 10 kids. There are 7 girls and 3 boys!!!! My first 8 years of school were at Coburg, Iowa. I had a great 8 years and had about 13 kids in my class. I had a great 8 years and didn't even think about me being handicapped. But, then the schools reconsolidated and we had to go to Red Oak for high school. That was soooooooooo traumatic for me. Our little group got separated because some went to Red Oak and most went to Essex Iowa. Red Oak was a high school of 500 and I thought that was enormous. It was at that point that I became very self conscious! (I somehow overcame that over the years). I graduated from high school in 1965 and worked in Omaha for a year at Mutual of Omaha. I then attended college and graduated from the

College of Saint Mary in 1970. I taught 1st or 2nd grade for the next 9 years of my life in Council Bluffs, Iowa. (Later, I went back to college to get a Masters in Speech Pathology, but ended up quitting after going for 2 years part time --it was just too much at the time).

I married Don Eades in 1973, so I was happy to give up my loooooooooooooonnnng maiden name of GUTSCHENRITTER!!!!!!!!!! Don and I have 3 children. Sarah is 29, lives in Omaha, works for Boystown and is also going to UNO for her Masters in Social work. Andy, 25, graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison Ks and is living in Kansas City working as an Edward Jones Rep. Last, but not least, is our baby, Jonathan. He turned 22 on Valentine's Day! He attended NWMS at Maryville, Missouri and graduated in May. We aren't sure what his plans will be at that point! He wants to go on for his Masters. When Andy was born, I quit teaching to raise kids. But, I work at Bergan Hospital 2 days a week and one evening a week. My husband, Don, works for Metro Area Transit.

Don is an avid fisherman and duck hunter.....so, we have spent many summer vacations up in Minnesota throughout the years. Our kids didn't like the fishing so much, but loved the swimming, water skiing, and tubing!

Don and I have been to many soccer games, basketball games, football games, plays, musicals, etc. over the years as our boys played in all the sports and Sarah was into the music and the plays. We were there, rain or shine, hot or cold...

Don and I are empty nesters and we are getting used to the quiet house. Our kids are all single so we don't have the pleasure of being grandparents yet.....We very much look forward to that. All we have is our mutt, Hannah!!!! We both enjoy reading, playing cards, going out to eat, good movies, family gatherings. The one thing I most enjoy is YACKING!

Don just recently had a total hip surgery in August so has been back to work about 2 months. He is doing well....

