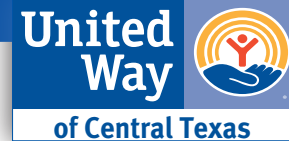




# Thriving - a BridgeS Story



## Susie's Story

Susie, a Temple resident, had difficulties breathing for several years. It got bad enough that doctors told her not to work, and she began receiving Social Security Disability payments to make ends meet. To add to the stress, Susie became the primary care taker of her grandchild, and disability was not enough to pay the bills. Knowing how hard it would be, Susie went back to work part-time to supplement her income. Working caused her to lose her disability payment, forcing her to increase her hours to full time - putting more stress on her lungs as she was on her feet 8 hours a day.

When Susie was approached about BridgeS to Wellness and Health, she was a patient at Baylor Scott & White Memorial Hospital. Her oxygen levels were so low, her doctor would not discharge her without full-time oxygen. Unfortunately, after years of just getting by, and several days out of work, she did not have the money to cover the initial costs of getting set up with oxygen, and her Medicare wouldn't cover durable medical equipment. She was at a loss. She didn't know how to pay for the oxygen, but the alternative was staying in the hospital indefinitely.

Susie had a plan for paying for her oxygen in the long-term, but just didn't know how to pay for the initial month. Thanks to the BridgeS to Wellness and Health program, Susie was able to cover the cost of the oxygen machine, and it was delivered to her home the first day of discharge.

"I don't know what I would have done without BridgeS to Wellness and Health," she said. "My doctor said I couldn't leave the hospital without the oxygen tank and I didn't have the money to pay for it. Without the assistance I received, I would still be in the hospital."

With full-time oxygen, Susie is now able to work again. She is getting her Social Security re-instated, and will be working with local programs to get prescription drug coverage to cover her oxygen during Medicare open enrollment.

