

[GRACE]

We take it day by day.

There are some days that we get through that we would consider a good day, and then there are others that things happen that we can't anticipate, we can't plan for, because we're just learning what this disease is capable of doing.

When those challenges come, I have to draw upon my strengths and my faith to help me get through some of them.

We're pretty fortunate because our relationship hasn't changed a whole lot because of the way that we dealt with each other before, we just kind of transitioned into my role as the caregiver but even though I have the responsibility for caring for him he still feels that he is participating in his own care.

We were very dependent on each other and we still are.

Even though he can do a lot of physical things his mind is good.

So, with the two of us drawing on each others' strengths, that's how we deal with those challenges as well.

This is a task I'm given. In order to do the best that I can I need to have a positive attitude, myself.

No matter how devastating the problem is, you want to look at it and say, "Well this is not good, but it could be worse."
That's kind of the way we start each day.

If there was no VA, I wouldn't be able to maintain Eddy in the home.

They introduced us to the Home Base program, which is heaven-sent, because he gets most of his care here at the house.

Each one of us has a different challenge and by communicating with other Caregivers you get to talk about how you dealt with a certain problem that is similar.

Just knowing that there's help there, that someone knows more about this thing than you do, or maybe knows a better way to handle a certain problem.

Just the camaraderie.

It makes all the difference.

It makes all the difference.

I'm Grace Benz, and I am a Caregiver.