

Meet a Member - Shakey's Story

A serious car accident in 2001 left Shakey - as his friends now call him - forever changed. "Shortly after the accident I started suffering grand mal seizures," he says. "I was ultimately diagnosed with epilepsy and my entire life changed. I never knew if or when I'd have a seizure. I started taking powerful anti-seizure medication which changed my personality and my health. I lost my job, my licence, and my upward mobility. I basically became a shut in."

For Shakey, his illness had an impact not only on him, but his family. With a young son, he desperately wanted to have an active role in his life, but was limited by the seizures. "My health wouldn't allow me to be the dad who coached his son in sports, or took him out for drives to listen to music together. Even with the best mix of anti-seizure pills, I was still having seizures four to six times a year."

Depressed, sore and tired, he really thought he had exhausted all avenues for treatment. That's when a friend suggested Shakey look into medical marijuana. "I had used marijuana several times in my life," he says "But because of my health issues I was hesitant." After talking to a caring health care practitioner, and figuring that he had nothing left to lose, he got his federal licence and started using high quality marijuana on a regular basis. That's when everything starting looking up.

"My combination of anti-epileptic pharmaceuticals, and smoking quality marijuana, have kept me seizure-free since 2008," says Shakey. "I started working in the compassion centre scene in late 2008 and am proud to say I have helped thousands of people find health and happiness through this incredible medicine." Best of all, he's now able to play an active role in his son's life. He coaches his sports teams, takes long drives to the cottage and enjoys a life free of grand mal seizures.

"My hope in opening True Compassion Toronto is that my colleagues and I can continue to help make positive strides in the lives of all those who can be positively affected by medical marijuana," he says. "Along with the love and patience of my family and friends, medical marijuana has helped me get my life back and helped me become the kind of man, and father, I want to be. So I'll

leave you with one of my favorite sayings, coined a few years ago - "Marijuana is my Medicine."

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