

## Blind Patient Sees After Chiropractic Adjustment

Everyone knows the story of Harvey Lillard and how his hearing was restored after he was adjusted by Dr. DD Palmer. This was in 1895 and since then doctors of chiropractic have witnessed these type of "miracles" at some time or another in their practices, but it is always heartwarming to hear another and to know that someone's life has changed forever because of the power of the chiropractic adjustment.

This particular story recently made headlines in the Iowa papers, on radio shows and various news services on the internet. A young man who had been completely blind in one eye for more than 12 years, suddenly got his sight back after receiving a chiropractic adjustment. The headline in the KCRG-TV News read, "Blind Man Suddenly Sees Again."

The man is Doug Harkey, and his doctor of chiropractic, Dr. Timothy Stackis of Dubuque, Iowa, a 1989 graduate of Los Angeles College of Chiropractic. Dr. Stackis is a member of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA).

The *Chiropractic Choice* contacted Dr. Stackis to confirm the story. Dr. Stackis said that Harkey was completely blind in one eye and now is not. He and his staff are excited and happy for Harkey who is still getting adjusted to the idea of being able to see. What does Harkey think of his chiropractor? He thinks Dr. Stackis has "miracle hands."

Dr. Stackis of course has a more scientific explanation. "I explain to my



Dr. Tim Stackis (r) with Doug Harkey whose sight was restored after a chiropractic adjustment.

patients," he said, "that subluxation causes interference to the nervous system and the chiropractic adjustment helps to remove that interference. That is what happened here. I strongly believe that the adjustment helps the body function as it is designed to do. I feel blessed by God to have been the instrument to restore this function."

Harkey had not always been blind, but he does have an inherited eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa. Both his parents are totally blind as well as two of his brothers. Other siblings have normal vision. Harkey was able to see out of both eyes early in life, though not clearly, till about 12 years ago. One day he woke up to find that he was completely blind in his left eye. A year ago he had surgery on his good right eye. His vision, even out of the right eye was never perfect.

When Harkey visited Dr. Stackis's office for the first time it was not as a patient. He was accompanying his girlfriend who was undergoing chiropractic care. She had come to Dr. Stackis in November of 2007 because of frequent headaches, neck pain, fatigue and upper thoracic pain. By December she was so excited about the results from her adjustments she brought Harkey, who was skeptical about chiropractic care, with her.

Dr. Stackis sat down with both of them and reviewed her symptoms and progress. He explained how the nervous system works and controls other functions and what the adjustment is designed to do. At that point Doug decided that maybe he should also get checked. He went through the usual chiropractic examination process including x-rays and received his first adjustment a week later.

On January 3rd Harkey came in for his scheduled visit and Dr. Stackis adjusted C1, C2 and C3 as he had done the time before. He said he found Harkey's neck area was extremely locked but when he adjusted him, the release was excellent. Soon after the adjustment Harkey's left eye started to water. He kept saying, "That's weird, my left eye is watering. That's my dead eye. It doesn't do anything. That's weird." After a little while he went home.

That afternoon the clinic staff was surprised to see Harkey again, looking much more cheerful than when he had left that morning. He rushed past them straight to Dr. Stackis and hugged him tightly, laughing and crying at the same time. Dr. Stackis thought something was wrong because he kept hugging him

and crying. But Harkey wasn't crying with pain he was crying with happiness. "You don't understand," he cried, "I can see!"

Dr. Stackis asked if he was seeing gray shadows or patches. "No," Harkey shouted, "I can really see." He then put his hand over his right eye and looking out the window to the parking lot read aloud what was painted on the side of a truck parked about 75 ft away. At this point he became overcome with emotion and cried again.

"We have had many patients whose visions have improved after chiropractic adjustments, but this is the first time that a patient's sight has been completely restored after being blind," said Dr. Stackis. "We are all so happy for Doug."

Harkey himself is ecstatic. He is about to walk down the aisle with his girlfriend who brought him to Dr. Stackis' office and made a believer out of him. After he lost the sight of one eye he had been depressed for many years. Now he is happy and on top of the world. Each day when he wakes up he puts his hand over his right eye...just to be sure he can still see. And then he laughs, because it is not dream, he can really see!



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