

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

QUALITY OUTCOMES EVERY DAY



WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE FOLLOWING PATIENT SUCCESS STORY.

Laura Hernandez

Reason for Admission: Industrial Accident/Workers Comp

Length of Stay: 131 days

Discharge Location: Assisted Living



PAM HEALTH
SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
OF TEXARKANA

On January 4, 2021, Laura Hernandez’s life changed forever, when a routine work day took a tragic turn. While on the job, she fell into a paper machine and suffered catastrophic injuries. She was airlifted from Texarkana to the nearest Level 1 Trauma Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. She arrived with a de-gloved scalp, severely injured right leg and left arm, detached right thumb, and serious cuts to her face and body. Because of the traumatic blood loss, she had a heart attack and was placed on mechanical ventilation to breath. Her survival was in question, but Ms. Hernandez, the trauma team and surgeons never gave up. She had over 17 surgeries, including the amputation of her left leg above the knee and her right arm. Attempts to transfer her scalp were unsuccessful.

Ms. Hernandez’s situation worsened after several skin grafts when she became septic and her kidneys started to fail. Despite the challenges she faced, she continued to fight. However, Ms. Hernandez did have post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the accident, and she was struggling because COVID-19 visitation restrictions prevented her from seeing her two small children. In late March she was referred to PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Texarkana and we immediately went to work to help her.

After just a few weeks of expert respiratory care, Ms. Hernandez was off the ventilator and breathing on her own! Speech, occupational and physical therapy teams worked with her to regain her independence. With their expertise and her hard work, she was thrilled to once again be able to eat her favorite foods and sing along to her favorite songs. She also learned to use assistive devices to complete some basic self-care. By Christmas she was able to wrap gifts for her children and tie her shoelaces with one hand. She was sad to go after all the time with us, but we will continue to follow her progress .



“The accident may have taken my arm and my leg but it did not take my spirit to live. Thanks to everyone...I feel beautiful.”

-- Laura Hernandez

