



**Voices**  
**OF OUR REGION**  
**THE DISABILITY CONNECTION**

**Interviewee: Grace Anderson**

**Interviewee Number: 12**

**Interviewers: Athena Aardweg, Judy Barricella**  
**& Tony Buba**

**Date of Interview: May 5, 2008**

Gracey: Thank you everybody for your love and support. My name is Grace Anderson but everybody calls me Gracey. My story began 30 years ago when I was hospitalized in the state of California. My hospitalization was a result of extreme paranoia of being alone, feeling as if people were out to get me. Since then I have been in and out of hospitals since 1969. For the past seven years I have been very active in my recovery. I used respite which was part of my recovery and support. I am out of respite and have been living in a personal care home for six years. My support system began with going FSWP, Family Service of Western Pennsylvania Mental Health Groups. I have built new friendships and have learned to get my self-esteem back. I learned to become more independent by being more assertive, being more comfortable. I was able to regain my sense of humor again. Today what gives me the greatest joy is volunteering at the Hope Center for three or four years. The reason I love my volunteering is because I can give back what I learned. I also began volunteering at the Salvation Army five years ago. The most perfect gift at this time is the relationship I have with my son, Georgie who is 26 years old. I also have support from my two brothers and who have been there for me most of my life. And also the support of several friends and family.

Interviewers: Very nice. Very nice. Yeah. Very nice. I think that...that you're an inspiration.

Gracey: Thank you.

Interviewers: I really do.

Gracey: Thank you.

Interviewers: And I appreciate the good work you're doing.

Gracey: Thank you.