

Blujean's Story



I am honored to be selected to the DPP Team of the month for January '08. However, all the credit has to go to my partner, Blujeans. Mostly known as Blujeans and (the other guy), our team visits Swedish Hospital on Friday afternoons, St. Mary's of Littleton on Thursday mornings (READ program) and Bemis Library monthly (READ program). We both have enjoyed our visits and the fine staffs of all the organizations mentioned above. I have enjoyed conversing with the patients and staff and for Blu (for short) the patients' and staff's affections, not to mention the "treats".

I have many fond memories of all my visits. One that comes to mind was recently at Swedish Hospital in ACU. I had almost completed my rounds and one of the nurses asked if I might try visiting an elderly lady at the end of the hall (the privacy curtain was drawn). She said the lady had Alzheimer's disease and might not respond. I approached and asked her if she would like a visit just to let her know Blu and I were coming. The lady's look was one of excitement with a reach of the hand toward Blu as he approached the bed and rested his head on the bed next to her hand. She literally squealed out and uttered words that neither I, nor the nurse, could understand as Blu was about to join her in the bed. Fortunately, Blu was on a short leash and stayed relatively under control and from that moment on the patient and my four-legged partner bonded verbally. Neither the nurse nor I understood the words spoken, but there was no doubt by the positive facial expressions. The nurse said the visit was the most positive response by the patient since she had been there.

By the way my father passed away from Alzheimer's a number of years ago.