

SUCCESS STORY

Sharon Regional
Medical Center

A STEWARD FAMILY HOSPITAL

A SHARON REGIONAL PATIENT SUCCESS STORY

Steward

Cardiovascular Services

sharonregionalmedical.org/chestpain

The Health Challenge

- Blockage in the main artery of his heart causing a heart attack.

The Treatment

- Placement of a stent.

The Result

- Return to active lifestyle, and family medicine practice.

"I knew I was lucky that I had these doctors taking care of me."

Morren Greenburg, M.D.
– patient

The Health Challenge

Location, location, location. That real estate mantra became a life or death catchphrase for Dr. Morren Greenburg.

Last August, the competitive runner, aged 85, was exercising at the fitness trail located at Linden Point in Hermitage, PA, when he experienced pain on the right side of his abdomen. When walking it off didn't help alleviate the pain, Dr. Greenburg headed back to the car to wait for his wife, Sherry, a registered nurse and also a competitive runner, who was there exercising but in the opposite direction on the path.

"When it didn't go away I thought I was having a gall bladder attack," Dr. Greenburg explained.

"When I finished my workout, he was sitting in the car so I knew something wasn't right," Sherry said. "I looked at him and he didn't look bad but I just had a sense. One of the things that we always learned in school in my assessment classes was anything above the waist you have to rule out cardiac issues. So, I figured we didn't have anything to lose. If we take him to the Sharon Cardiology Specialists office that was nearby, and he's having a heart attack, they take care of it. And if he's not, then whatever is going on we will deal with it."

The couple initially decided to head home and, if the pain didn't subside, then to the emergency room. Dr. Greenburg had no inkling prior to that morning that anything could be wrong. Nor did he have any existing health concerns. As a matter of fact, the couple had just run — back-to-back — the Pittsburgh Sarcoma Run in the Steel City and the Art Festival Run in Hermitage a week before. Still, Sherry convinced her husband to stop at Sharon Cardiology



Background

Not only was Dr. Greenburg having a full-blown heart attack, but the blockage was in the main artery of his heart, best known as the Widow Maker.

Name – Morren Greenburg, M.D. | **Age** – 85
Occupation – Family Medicine Practitioner

Specialists office, which happened to be right at Linden Pointe.

"They took me right in, the whole bunch, and they were so great," Dr. Greenburg continued. "They examined me, did all the tests and then called the hospital."

"One of my former students, Jamie Kurelko, was the nurse practitioner in the office and that was very reassuring," Sherry noted. "Dr. (Ronnie) Mignella and Dr. (Michael) Burley were already at the hospital so there were no docs in the office. But, that whole team there worked together very well, got him all set to go. It was just unbelievable, incredible."

The office's orders from Sharon Regional were clear — get an ambulance and get Dr. Greenburg to the hospital as soon as possible. And it's a good thing. Not only was Dr. Greenburg having a full-blown heart attack, but the blockage was in the main artery of his heart, best known as the Widow Maker.

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The Treatment

Within minutes, Dr. Greenburg was in the catheterization lab at Sharon Regional. After several attempts, the cardiologist was able to place a stent, avoiding open heart surgery.

“The reassuring thing for me was, first of all, that my husband was in the hospital where he practiced most of his life,” Sherry said. “I also think that it was reassuring to him. I think it was comforting to him that the (cardiologists) were guys he knew, these are guys he sends his patients to. He is never willing to do something for somebody else that he isn’t willing to do himself. There’s something about being in your own community, there’s something about being surrounded by your colleagues, that is very comforting.”

“I knew I was lucky that I had these doctors taking care of me,” Dr. Greenburg said. “I trusted them with my patients.”

A mere 22 minutes passed between the time Dr. Greenburg experienced his discomfort at Linden Pointe to placing the stent.

Location truly is everything.

The Result

Since that August morning, the Greenburgs have found a new normal. Although the couple is still extremely active, Dr. Greenburg is walking at full speed but no longer running. Right after his cardiac event, the couple restricted their diet in an extreme manner, but that has moderated as well. Quick-witted and pleasant, Dr. Greenburg, a family practitioner, returned to

work in November to continue his 60-year career in medicine. He continues to serve on the Hermitage School Board, the Highmark Board of Directors and works with the city of Hermitage on various projects.

Sherry is a nurse educator who retired in 2014 as director of The Sharon Regional School of Nursing. Prior to that, she was a nurse at Sharon Regional for many years.

Currently, Sherry is working at the Penn State Shenango Valley campus as an adjunct faculty member where she teaches the health assessment class for the incoming students at Sharon Regional Medical Center’s School of Nursing. She also works part-time, about four times a year, for ATI Assessment Technology Institute, which provides live state board licensure reviews all over the country. Sherry also tutors anatomy and physiology at Butler County Community College at Linden Pointe.

The couple coached track in the Hermitage School District for 25 years and have six children and six grandchildren.

Sharon Regional’s Chest Pain Center

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 people dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. Sharon Regional Medical Center is the region’s only Accredited Chest Pain Center and adheres to the highest standards in the country for heart attack care and signifies a new level of heart care for the Shenango Valley community.

About Sharon Regional Medical Center

Sharon Regional Medical Center is your community healthcare provider; a 220 acute care bed hospital with 19 satellite centers throughout the region. As a Joint Commission accredited hospital, Sharon Regional Medical Center proudly offers specialized services including the Heart and Vascular Institute, emergency heart attack/stroke treatment, cancer care, orthopedics/sports medicine, minimally invasive surgery, bariatric surgery, emergency care, a women’s center, and a breast care center.

For more information visit www.sharonregionalmedical.org.

About Steward Health Care System, LLC

Steward Health Care, the largest private hospital operator in the United States, is a physician-led health care services organization committed to providing the highest quality of care in the communities where patients live. Headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, Steward regularly receives top awards for quality and safety.

Steward’s unique health care service delivery model leverages technology, innovation, and care coordination to keep patients healthier. With a culture that prioritizes agility, resourcefulness, and continuous improvement, Steward is recognized as one of the nation’s leading accountable care organizations. The Steward Health Care Network includes thousands of physicians who care for approximately 2 million patients annually. Steward Medical Group, the company’s employed physician group, provides more than 1 million patient encounters per year. Additional information is available at www.steward.org.



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