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The Indigo Canary

As I watched my oldest daughter graduate and leave for college; I prepped myself for my youngest son's entrance into school. It was a time of great emotional turmoil with surges of sadness and joy; yet another transition in life's journey.

My daughter was my best friend and my extra hand in helping meet the needs of a single disabled parent household. My son was a medical miracle combating all that life threw at him. Strong, stable, and as he was grinning from ear to ear, I could only find sincere happiness for him as I watched him pull himself up onto the big yellow bus. He displayed such pride to be attending the 2 week summer program for upcoming kindergarten students. Little did either of us know the dangers that were lurking before us. It was our introduction to MCS 101.

The school was well informed of my child's severe asthma, allergies, and Celiac Disease. I felt confident that he would do

well although I was concerned that the bus driver was not allowed to administer my son's meds if needed. "Stop worrying!" I told myself, "It's only a 2 hour day for now." Really, what could go wrong?

By the end of the first week I knew my concerned instincts were right on. Something was wrong- instead of the blue pallor color I use to see in my son when he was in distress- I now saw the darkest purple allergic shiners I have ever seen. His personality had changed tremendously as he was no longer the loving, caring child I knew. He displayed all the signs of ADHD. He couldn't remember anything to share with me about the school day...but he was still so happy to be in school. By the end of the second week he was back to all his doctors.

(to be continued.)

Wanda Finney



“Though our organization is called MCS America we advocate for the condition, not any one name. ”

Sal's Place

Welcome to the second monthly issue of MCS Voice. Our little 4 page newsletter has expanded and is continuing to grow into a small magazine. This is wonderful news for the MCS community as it means we are collaborating and joining hands to gain recognition of our condition.

Speaking of our condition, this month I'd like to talk briefly about the term MCS and my views of the controversy over the name. As most of you well know MCS is also known as toxic injury (TI), chemical sensitivity (CS), chemical injury (CI), idiopathic environmental intolerance (IEI), toxicant induced loss of tolerance (TILT), and environmental illness (EI) among other names. There has been a recent move away from the term MCS due to better ability to win court cases with terms such as toxic encephalopathy if one meets the diagnostic criterion. However many also feel that the MCS community has lost much ground in gaining recognition with this switch of names. My personal opinion is that the name does not change the condition. Though our or-

ganization is called MCS America we advocate for the condition, not any one name. I see no harm in using the name of the illness that wins the case but am dismayed as changing the name means delayed public recognition of the condition.

In the last two years I've found many people have become familiar with the term MCS but not with the newer terms. It's a real catch 22 and though MCS America is named for MCS all our publications and documents refer to the multitudes of other names out there and will continue to do so until the medical community settles on a name for the condition. It is ultimately doctors, once they recognize the condition, who will decide on the name. Perhaps rather than a name that describes our symptoms we may one day be diagnosed with Pall's Syndrome or Rhea's Complex after one of the doctors who has discovered it providing us with a name that encompasses the complexities of our disease.

Lourdes "Sal" Salvador, Founder

