

# Meet Amy, an ostomate



Amy was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis in 2007, at the age of 21. The disease progressed quickly and in 2010, she had emergency surgery to remove her colon, resulting in an ileostomy. During her time in the hospital, complications arose and Amy nearly lost her life. Her positive attitude and strong spirit helped her

recover faster than expected. She was thankful not only to be alive but also to have her quality of life back.

## How did you feel when you left the hospital?

When you go home, it's kind of like 'whoa.' No one is there anymore. You don't have people checking on you. You're by yourself. It's a little scary; it's a little intimidating.

## What value did the Coloplast Care program provide to you?

Coloplast Consumer Care called me periodically. And I loved those calls - I looked forward to those calls. Even if I didn't call them, when they called me, any questions I had I asked them right away and they always helped me. I felt like someone still cared and that someone still remembered that I went through this ordeal. And that I wasn't alone. That's a big deal as a patient because you leave that hospital where everyone's caring and you go

"The interactions I had with Coloplast Consumer Care were really valuable. They made a difference in my life."

home and you feel like 'hello, does anyone care anymore?'

Consumer Care was a really big aid in my attitude and with the products. I wouldn't have known to try other products in the Coloplast brand. For

instance, I didn't know about pre-cut barriers for the size of my stoma. This all came through talking to Consumer Care representatives.

## How have Coloplast products impacted your life?

I truly believe that Coloplast products have made my life with an ileostomy very easy. If the products weren't so easy to handle, and change, and purchase and use, I might have a whole different approach to how I live with an ileostomy.

I wouldn't have the life I have without the Coloplast Care program and Coloplast products. My life was given back to me!

## Some final comments from Amy

I think the biggest piece of advice that one can receive after surgery is to accept it, and have a positive, uplifting, motivational attitude to go on with life. I think the faster you can decide that it's a good thing for you, the better off you'll be.

Although my ileostomy can be reversed, I have no intention of getting reconnected. I feel like I won the lottery because I have my life again. I honestly feel there's nothing I can't do. ■