

MY LIFE RAFT

On May 28, 2010 my life took a turn for the worse, I realized my health, physical and mental was turned upside down, inside out and lonely and depressing... I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and had a major stroke and I was alone. Or was I? My oldest son, Joseph and his wife Christine had a son who was 7 years old. I had moved from New Fairfield, CT to Jensen Beach, FL, in 2013 to get away from all the chaos and madness, now I really had no one to lean on. In November 2016, my son and his family came down for a visit. Thanksgiving took on a new meaning to me. My grandson Matthew, now 10 years old who was addicted to baseball, became my fishing partner, my psychiatrist, my voice of reason. He told me that they were building a house in New Fairfield and that he had talked his dad into making a handicap apartment in the basement for me, and that his dad "needed" me to help coach the New Fairfield High School Varsity Baseball Team. Also Matthew needed me to teach him baseball and how to fish. From the day I moved back to New Fairfield to today due to Matthew my life has changed for the better, my life raft "Matthew" saved me. Every morning and every night he checks on me. We fish the local lakes and he is a fisherman to be dealt with. His baseball skills have scored him a scholarship to Uconn. And he is watched and trouted by numerous major league teams. I am no longer able to drive, but all I have to do is ask and my life boat will come through for me. 2021 is his senior year in High School and I am still teaching him how to play baseball and how to fish. We talk about many things and he has made me proud and happy to be alive. To see all the things that he does and how my life raft has grown into a Coast Guard Cutter.

Michael E. Garbowski