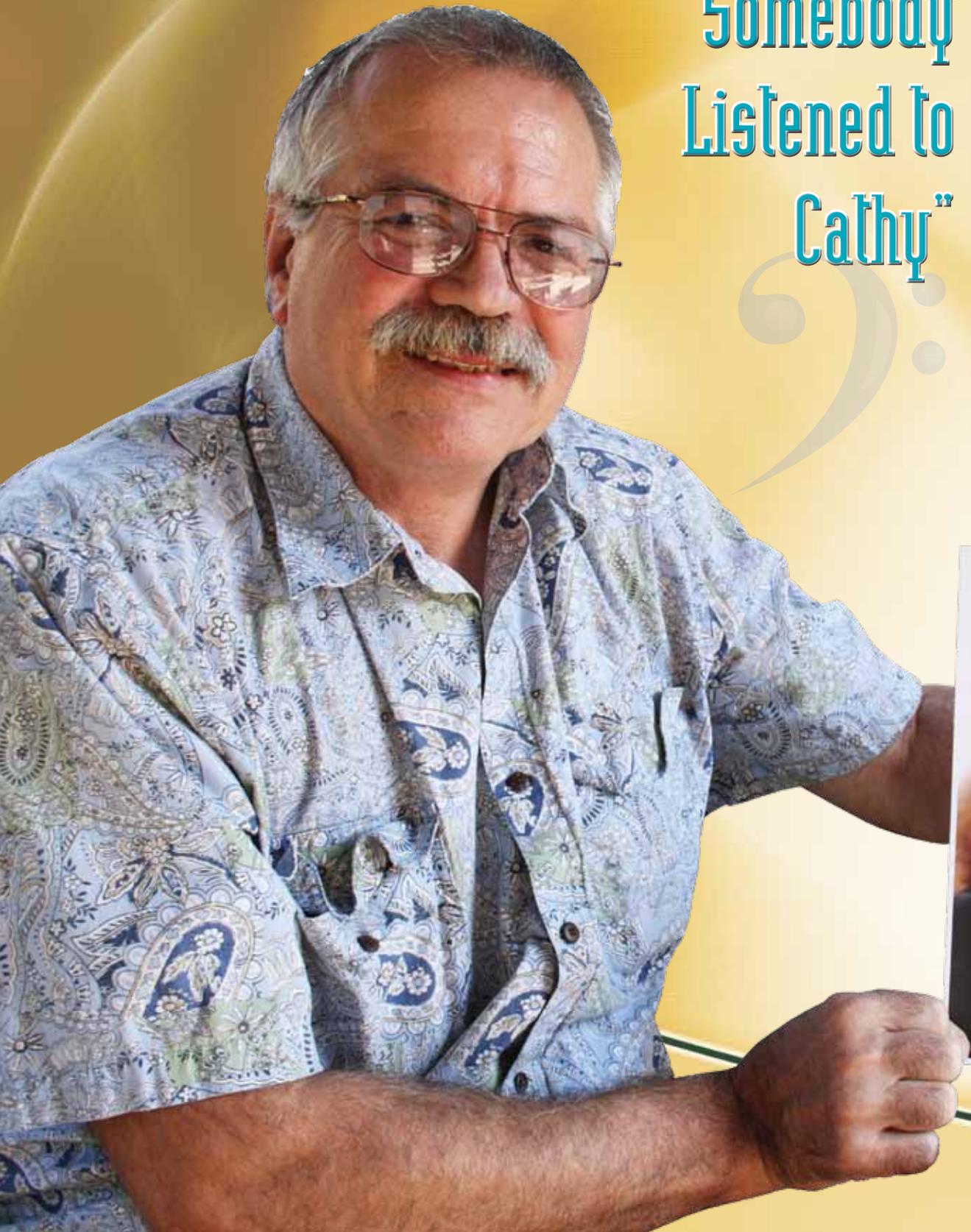


“Finally,
Somebody
Listened to
Cathy”



How much mush do you dare put in print? I have so many good things to say about her,” Del Spade inquires when asked to talk about the care Preventive Health Strategies (PHS) gave his late wife, Cathy. “My wife doctored for years and nobody had figured out what was wrong with her. Then my son suggested we talk to the folks at PHS. The doctor listened and paid attention to Cathy’s answers. Because she wasn’t pigeon-holing or labeling us, she came up with the real diagnosis.”

The diagnosis, in July 2011, wasn’t encouraging. But at least the Spades had their answer. Cathy would die of ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease).

“They told us what the time frame would be and laid out the stages. That’s the beauty of the way she deals with patients. It’s not as if appointments end after 15 minutes and you’re expected to be out the door. You can stay with the doctor until all of your questions are answered and then go home,” Del says. “There’s none of that ‘You’re out, who’s next?’ You get the feeling the entire staff cares about you.”

Cathy and Del wanted to know what they could expect as the horrible disease progressed. Were there medications that could help? What could their new doctor do for Cathy? The questions kept coming, and even when the Spades weren’t in the doctor’s office, they learned they could easily reach out for answers online. “Yes, we used the Patient Information Portal to communicate back and forth. I’m still using it since I’m now a patient, too.”

Del describes the Patient Information Portal as a quick and easy way to get answers online. A physician posts reports of office visits, lab reports, and prescribed drugs there for patients and family members to review between in-office visits. “We gave our children access to the portal so they could keep track of their mother’s progress. If there is something more urgent, you can still make a phone call, but the portal is especially good for asking basic questions like ‘Why does my mom need this drug?’”

Answers from the PHS staff made all the difference for the Spade family. Finally having an accurate diagnosis afforded them the chance to talk about the future, go fishing at a friend’s cabin, and say goodbye. “Our doctor was there for me, too. She talked to Cathy but she also made sure to ask me how everything was going. She’s easy to talk to. That’s the best part right there.”



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

The Meaningful Medicine Patient Information Portal makes it easy to stay in touch with your doctor before and after office visits.

- Ask questions! The portal is a direct conduit to our staff.
- Include your family! When you give permission to family members, they can log in to view the progress of your medical care.
- Keep track of everything! You’ll find easily accessible lists of prescriptions, your complete patient history, and reminders of your upcoming appointments.
- To learn more, visit meaningfulmedicine.org.