

DR. BYUN IN MEDIA

Chicago Tribune

Article from Chicago Tribune
January 4, 2004

Help for sister

Six sisters growing up together—what great memories of fun playing together, secrets among us, petty arguments while washing the dinner dishes, but mostly sharing. Now, we are in our middle years and over the last few years have discovered what really counts in sisterhood. Four years ago, the second oldest sister was in a terrible car accident, suffering a traumatic brain injury. Mary had never married and had no children, so we, her five sisters, became her lifeline during hospitalizations and rehabilitation services. She lived with us and then gained more independence and lived in her own home with caregivers.



But the most difficult part of getting her life together was out of our hands. You see, Mary's face, due to the accident, was deformed. She hadn't looked at herself in a mirror since the day of the accident, but she knew from the stares of passersby on the street that her physical form was bad, very bad. She had no hope of getting a job or getting out into the world that she so enjoyed before the accident. There were no resources that would cover the extensive costs of surgery to correct Mary's disfigurement. We had no hope for a fuller, more productive life for Mary.

But, God sent us an angel for Mary: Dr. Michael Byun. This most compassionate and gentle man has taken not only Mary but all her sisters under his wing. In October, he performed extensive plastic surgery on Mary, and today she does look in the mirror. She now has so much more self-esteem and is taking better care of her personal care, getting her hair styled and buying new clothes. Mary now looks forward to devoting time as a volunteer. Dr. Byun gave all this back to Mary as a gift; he has not charged us for the surgery nor for the extra time and effort he has spent getting Mary involved in life again.

Dr. Byun has made Mary and our family whole again. He is a gift to us for which "thank you" is not enough.

*Dorothy Russell
Wonder Lake*