

Sue Hanisch was caught in the blast of an exploding IRA bomb at Victoria Station in 1991, as a result of which she lost one leg and severely damaged the other. Five years of painful physical rehabilitation followed but that did not address the mental trauma which she had suffered, and life for her was then at a very low point when she discovered Flying Scholarships for the Disabled (FSD) and was awarded a scholarship.

Through the physical and mental challenges of learning to fly a light aircraft, many disabled men and women have been able to restore their confidence and self-esteem, and find previously unrealized personal potential.

Sue Hanisch is one such lady, who found herself again after going through the flight training scheme. She renewed her faith and found enormous mental strength, which is shown by her achievements over the last few years. Since 1998 she has given of herself through her total dedication in helping others to face and overcome all the fears, with which she also battled during her long recovery.

Sue currently works with a variety of people who have suffered from a great range of Post Traumatic Stress disorders....these have been Vietnam War Vets in Australia, returning servicemen in UK and USA. Some are amputees, some are not, but the nature of their trauma has got them "stuck in the moment". Many are terrified of reconnecting with their lives, and indeed some are so traumatised that they have been disconnected for so long, and are fearful of any encouragement or being inspired by others.

The Human Givens Psychotherapeutic approach has helped Sue beyond measure, so she has now trained as a psychotherapist and is having significant degrees of success with everyone she sees.

Sue's involvement with the Forgiveness Project continues and she recently appeared in a short 5 minute documentary on Channel 4. She is currently working in collaboration with a professor in USA doing research into personal acts of forgiveness following acts of civil conflict.

Sue found that following her injuries, her experience of a Criminal Injuries claim left her further traumatised as a result of the legal profession focusing on all her losses and all the things she could no longer do. Great emphasis was put on inability and loss. Sue now undertakes workshops to help the legal profession and the insurance industry understand the impact of their language...the words they choose to use...and the impact this can have on clients in compounding their fears and feelings of hopelessness and lack of status.

Past ventures have included working at a children's rehabilitation centre as an occupational therapist in Ramallah, Palestine, working with street children in Tel Aviv, collecting and sending a container of wheelchairs to the Gambia, as well as sending wheelchairs to Latvia and holding wheelchair clinics there.

Two years ago Sue decided to spend some time on herself by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro! But this wasn't really a selfish act as one of her driving forces behind the climb was to collect sponsorship money for UNICEF!

The Trustees of Flying Scholarships for the Disabled would like you to consider Sue Hanisch for your "Services of Other Users" award. We are immensely proud of her achievements. One so rarely meets what can be described as a 'truly good' person these days. Sue is one such rare person and her dedication to the welfare of others is admirable.