

Ken's story

Kenneth Saler is 59 years old, married and the father of two children. He has a successful commercial real estate business and a real passion for sailing. However, Ken's life hit a low point in 2003. Heart failure had forced him to work and play less, and rest more. He was no longer able to show properties to his clients because he simply could not walk due to his shortness of breath. Of course, sailing was out of the question.

After three heart attacks within five months, and despite an implanted defibrillator, Ken found himself on a heart transplant list. Then he heard about the Surgical Ventricular Restoration® (SVR) procedure. Dr. Steven Boyce, one of the doctors on the transplant team at Washington Hospital Center in Washington D.C., informed Ken of the SVR procedure. The SVR procedure is a surgical treatment option for patients with left ventricular dysfunction, usually caused by a heart attack.



Ken was evaluated for the SVR procedure. He was found to be a candidate because his left ventricle was dilated and functioning poorly due to his heart attacks. Ken received the SVR procedure along with the bypass grafts he needed to correct the blockages, which had developed in the coronary arteries.

The surgery was successful in restoring his ventricle to more normal function. Ken's post-operative course was similar to those experienced by patients undergoing bypass surgery. His recovery, because of the improvement in his ventricle, moved quickly and was uncomplicated.

Before SVR, Ken couldn't walk from the car to his front door without having to sit down to catch his breath. Today, Ken is working, enjoying activities with family and friends, and much to his delight, sailing once again.

"The SVR procedure gave me my life back."

**Kenneth Saler,
Potomac, Maryland**