

In the Spotlight

KATHALIYA JARVIS, ALUMNA



Kathaliya utilizes a dual screen to multitask between writing code and communicating with clients.

LOSING MY SIGHT

I never knew what was wrong with me. I remember being younger and going in for eye exams and the doctors couldn't tell me what was wrong. They prescribed glasses and I would put them on, take them off and my vision was exactly the same. When I was 25 years old I was finally diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa (R.P.). At the time I was still able to see, so to me it was not a big deal. By the time I was 30 years old, I had no central vision in my left eye and my right eye had many spots that shift around.

There have been many times in my life where I woke up in the morning and wondered if this is the day that I don't see anything else, that everything I'm used to goes away. There were times when the

thought of that was crushing. It's very easy to stop doing things you once did when your vision is stolen from you. Shortly thereafter you start losing parts of your life because you think you can't do something, so I just won't do it. Before long, you could become a recluse and do nothing at all.

MAKING MY OWN REALITY

Thankfully, I'm an optimistic person and always believe there's another way. I'm also a believer that you make your own reality. It doesn't matter what is happening in my life, I always have a smile on my face. You wake up in the morning and have the choice. You can choose to be the victim of everything that's happening to you or you can choose for it to be your motivation.

In those moments when you run out of steam or hope, it's great to have to Center to fill you back up. FCB helped me put things back into my life that I thought I had lost. I am now able to do the things that I used to enjoy, like hiking a mountain or riding an elevator.

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STARTING A BUSINESS

When I was losing my vision, I worked as the IT Director at Ocala Eye. After graduating from FCB, I decided to start my own business. I am now the co-owner of J-Tay Consulting, a comprehensive complete suite of IT services. I have written over 150 applications and have clients all over the United States. J-Tay Consulting remains focused on bridging the gap between technology and customer service. Our goal is to help companies find the balance between business strategies and information technology. It's very exciting to be able to take someone's idea, that is just simply an idea, and turn it into a reality.

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We are all shaped by the things that happened to us and the people in our lives. You need good family and community support to be successful. I'm honored that FCB views me as an inspiration to other individuals at the Center. I hope that I can set the standard really high for clients graduating from the Center to inspire them to be as successful as possible.

FCB provides everyone the support, training and resources to become the next greatest version of themselves. FCB allows you to work with people who empower you to do the things you always want to do, and who look at you and are proud.

LOOKING FORWARD

What's wonderful for me is that I am not afraid anymore. I'm not afraid of the day that I no longer see. I'm not afraid because I know that my support system around me is phenomenal and that the Center is part of that support structure. I know that FCB will not let me fall, no matter how hard I try.

Kathaliya continues to be an inspiration and advocate for the blind and visually impaired community. She hosts FCB's annual Making the Blind Visible Bowling Event and continues to spread awareness for FCB's services. FCB is honored to have such an outstanding alumna giving back to the community, breaking down barriers, and reaching her dreams.



Kathaliya accepting an award for outstanding achievement at the 3rd Annual Dining in the Dark