

A Stroke Survivor's Story: Chip Windsor

Chip Windsor, a lifelong resident of Havana, has dedicated nearly 30 years of service to the Mason County Sheriff's Office. On what seemed like an ordinary day in June 2023, Chip's life took an unexpected turn when he suffered a stroke.

A Morning That Changed Everything

On the morning of June 11, 2023, Chip remembers waking up and reaching for his phone to check the weather. He noticed that his right arm wasn't functioning properly. Thinking he had just slept on it awkwardly, he got up to start his day.

"When I finished putting my shoes on, I couldn't tie them. I knew something was wrong," recalled Chip.

When he arrived at Mason District Hospital's Emergency Department, he began describing his symptoms to the team—but his speech started to slur.

Dr. James Brown, the attending physician, immediately performed a NIH stroke scale and activated the hospital's stroke protocol.

"The entire process went smoothly. Everything was moving very quickly, but it wasn't chaotic. Everyone knew what their roles and responsibilities were," stated Chip.

Life-Saving Care Close to Home

A CT scan confirmed that Chip had suffered a stroke, and he was quickly administered the clot-busting medication IV tPA. He was then transported to a major medical center for continued care.

“During my transfer, I began to regain feeling in my right hand, fingers, and arm,” said Chip.

After several days in the ICU, he returned home with no physical impairments and only minor memory issues.

“The care team at the facility I was transferred to said that I have no idea how lucky I am to be alive. I was fortunate that Mason District Hospital was so close to home and responded the way that they did.”

A Grateful Return

After some time away, Chip returned to his duties at the Mason County Sheriff’s Office, occasionally managing dispatch responsibilities.

“We work closely with the Mason County Sheriff’s Office, and it was great to hear Chip’s voice over the paging system when he returned to work,” said Lisa Shore, Director of Emergency Services at Mason District Hospital.

One year later, Chip visited MDH to share his story and thank the team who helped save his life.

“I’m glad we were here for you and can be here for you in the future,” said Dana Adcock, MDH CEO.

Chip also shared a heartfelt moment with Dr. Brown, who emphasized the strength of rural healthcare teams.

“I’m really glad everything worked out the way that it did,” said Dr. Brown.

Act FAST: Stroke Awareness Saves Lives

Chip hopes his story encourages others to understand the urgency of stroke symptoms and the value of accessible, responsive medical care.



Mason District Hospital is proud to be designated an Acute Stroke Ready Hospital by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Know the Signs — Act FAST:

- **F**acial Drooping
- **A**rm Weakness
- **S**peech Difficulty
- **T**ime to call 911

The faster a stroke is treated, the greater the chance of recovery.