

Frank Villanueva



Susan and Frank—working on Dynamic Alignment



Frank Villanueva is originally from Houston where he worked as office manager of his father's tire business. He was originally diagnosed with diabetes in 1995, but Frank was never treated until he started losing his vision in 2004. Frank was then diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy, and now he has dialysis three days a week.

Frank's problems with his foot started with a broken ankle in 2007. His ankle healed, but he developed Charcot foot. He began wearing a cast boot, but soon irritation from the boot led to ulceration then infection. Unfortunately from these complications, he had to have a below knee amputation in August of 2008 .

Frank is visually impaired. He literally lost his sight over night in one eye and the other soon to follow. He currently works at Travis Association for the Blind. His long-term goal is to improve his walking, because the job he wants to advance toward requires him to be a good ambulator.

In Frank's own words: "My Prosthetist, Susan Kestner, takes her time and does a meticulous job and besides that, she is a very nice person. Seeing Frieda (Amputee Peer Visitor), in the hospital prior to my amputation, made it more believable that I would be able to walk again. It is comforting to see other amputees in the OPT office going through the same thing you are going through, and to know you are not going through this alone—you are not the only one."

Frank is an inspiration to everyone he meets. He is always smiling and has a joke to make. He is truly friendly. An example of Frank's sense of humor: "I lost my eyesight; I lost my leg; now all I need to do is lose some weight". One of his biggest goals is getting back to his favorite hobby of bowling.