

Project TCMS Restores Ability to Work



41-year-old Michael Million had no insurance, no money and was unable to work as an electrical contractor due to the traumatic rupture of ligaments in his left thumb when he fell at his grandfather's farm in May 2020. Michael and his wife Kristyn lost their successful nutrition business during the COVID-19 shutdown, but not before using all their savings. They also faced foreclosure of their home. Michael returned to electrical contracting but he wasn't making much money. Once his thumb was damaged, even those jobs were lost.

Michael was accepted as a Project TCMS patient in June 2020. Dr. Brian Chalkin volunteered to see him, diagnosed the traumatic rupture of the thumb's ligaments and volunteered to do the surgery needed to repair the thumb. Project TCMS also arranged for Hillcrest Medical Center to volunteer its services. The July 7th surgery was successful, and Michael is back at work and regaining feeling in and use of his thumb.

"I can't express my appreciation enough," Michael said. "You were all a major blessing. Your healing hands and minds provide miracles for so many. My wife and I are indebted (to you)."

PROJECT TCMS VOLUNTEER PHYSICIAN SPOTLIGHT **RACHEL L. GIBBS, M.D.**

Dr. Rachel Gibbs has been a Project TCMS volunteer physician since 2015. She is a board certified gynecologist with the Warren Clinic and specializes in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

"I think it is important that everyone try to do a little with what they have to help others. Often I see patients who have unfortunately lost their insurance through no fault of their own, yet they do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. If they need surgery, it is so expensive that they often put it off until the situation is dire because they just see no way that they can afford it," Dr. Gibbs said.

"One lady had waited for years to have a hysterectomy. By the time I saw her, she was seriously anemic. I was

able to do her surgery robotically so that she could go home the same day and was back to work in two weeks. Another lady had lost her insurance because she had to quit her job to care for a child who was terminally ill. Both these ladies were so grateful because they felt they had exhausted every possibility," she added.

Project TCMS would not be what it is today without our 185 volunteer physicians like Dr. Gibbs. For more information about our volunteer physicians or how you can become a volunteer physician, contact our office.

Thank you to Dr. Gibbs and to all our Volunteer Physicians!

