

“I had a heart attack!?”

At age 47, I went to my doctor for a regular checkup. Basically all I wanted was to get refills on my blood pressure and diabetes medications. I’ve had diabetes for 24 years. My doctor asked lots of the typical questions. I told her at times I have shortness of breath and feel a little tired after doing some type of work outside. I never thought this was unusual. She wanted me to have a stress test. I thought this was ridiculous and almost canceled my appointment. But it was a good thing I didn’t — the stress test indicated that my heart was scarred from a heart attack. Sometime in the past, I had a heart attack and didn’t even know it! I never felt anything.

I met with a cardiologist who has an office in the **Cornwell Center for Cardiovascular and Diabetes Care** in the O’Bleness Medical Park. He explained that because of my diabetes, my nerves were damaged. That’s why I didn’t feel anything during my heart attack. He recommended heart catheterization at O’Bleness where stents would be placed to keep my arteries open. Well, when they took a closer look at the inside of my arteries, the cardiologist immediately referred me to **Riverside Methodist Hospital** where I had quadruple bypass surgery. My surgery was on a Wednesday and I was back home in Athens under the care of my wife and children on Saturday.

The entire process of diagnosis and surgery between O’Bleness and Riverside has been an amazing experience. I’m glad heart services are available close to home, with the connection between O’Bleness and Riverside. That gives me confidence I’m in good hands.

I’m back at work and feeling great! My heart gets stronger every day, thanks to the care I have received at O’Bleness, Riverside, and right here at home. When you come as close as I did, you are thankful for a strong family and excellent medical care. I would like to thank everyone who had a part in my care, diagnosis, surgery and recovery! I’m glad to be alive.



Chuck Howerth



Chuck and his children