

# Payment of Million-Dollar Medical Bill a Life Saver for Taylor Family

John and Julie Taylor aren't millionaires, but you would never know it based on the health care they received as a result of their UFCW 588 benefits.

John, who retired in 2003, and Julie, who retired this past January, both worked at SPD Market in Nevada City.

John had been a member of UFCW for 38 years. He started at the market in the non-food section at age 15 and then worked as a deli clean-up boy. After service in the National Guard, he returned to begin his apprenticeship as a meat cutter.

That's where he stayed for the better part of three decades. In fact, he liked working at SPD so much, that, 16 years ago, he helped get Julie a job at the market's deli.

Having a job with the kind of negotiated benefits won over the years by UFCW 588 means a lot to him. "You can't get much better benefits than we have had," Taylor said. "I was always grateful for having them and always felt that the Union not only treated me very well, but that they were also fair with SPD management, too."

If, as the saying goes, "into each

life a little rain must fall," you could say that beginning in 1999, the Taylors experienced a hurricane.

Their daughter Christy had a bout of chicken pox at the age of 20, a disease that isn't usually very serious in young children, but one that can have serious consequences for an adult.

"The disease destroyed both of Christy's kidneys," Taylor said. "And to make matters even worse, she also had a stroke. She spent the better part of two years in and out of the hospital and also spent a year on dialysis."

Christy had to have a kidney transplant. Being the better match, Julie decided to donate one of her kidneys to her daughter. It turned out to be a good thing in more ways than one.

That's because two years ago John lost one of his kidneys to cancer. "It's a good thing I didn't get to donate that one to Christy," he said with an ironic chuckle.

Christy underwent the transplant at Stanford University Medical Center, another plus of having the excellent health benefits of their Union membership. "We were able to take

**'We were able to take her to one of the best hospitals in the world for transplants.'**



Christy and Julie Taylor

her to one of the best hospitals in the world for transplants," Taylor said.

The medical bills came to more than one million dollars. "Needless to say, there was no way we could have handled paying anything near that ourselves," Taylor said.

All of it was covered by their health insurance, as was the treatment for John's kidney cancer. "I can't tell you how much having the excellent medical coverage we had has meant, because we were able to get the best medical care available. I'm happy to say that all of us have

completely recovered."

Christy now 26, works as a dental assistant in Yuba City and will get married in June to a man she met while a student at Cal State Chico.

John now spends most of his time building hot rods. He is working on a 1963 Nova and '68 GTO. After finishing the cars, he usually sells them, "unless I fall in love with them," he said. "That's when I hear it from Julie. She wants me to sell them because I put so much money into them."

## Price Was Definitely 'Right' For Patrick Pimlott's New Car

When Patrick Pimlott gets a call to, "come on down" to work a register at Safeway 273 in Anderson, a smile instantly crosses his face.

Not only because he enjoys his job, but also because it brings back memories of another time he heard the words "come on down," about a year and a half ago.

Just about anyone who has watched daytime TV in the past three decades knows those words are the call to join the panel of bidders on the game show "The Price is Right."

Pimlott, who has been a Union member since he began working at Safeway in September of 2000, got to hear those words with his name preceding them.

"Actually, it was so loud in the audience that I didn't really hear my name called," he remembered. "But they also write the contestant's name on a big cue card in case that happens, so when I turned and saw it, I 'high-fived' everyone around me and got down to the podium with the other contestants."

Pimlott and his mother are longtime "Price is Right" viewers. So, when he came to Los Angeles to attend a



Patrick Pimlott, left, and his father, Michael, stand beside the car Patrick won on "The Price is Right."

friend's wedding, he made sure to go to Television City in Hollywood where the show is taped.

"We got there at 5 a.m., about eight hours before the taping," he said. "You have to get there really early to have any chance of getting in."

While in line, he learned that the show's producers observe and talk with people, to scout them as possible

contestants. "I guess I made a good impression, because I'm always friendly," he said. "It's something I do at my job, so it comes naturally."

"I got a deck of cards and started playing with people and also sang some songs, and that obviously did the trick."

The road to his new car was paved with as much luck as skill. After

guessing the price of a JBL stereo system and some Gold Bond Powder, with a bid of \$1 ("I was going to bid one dollar, no matter what," he said), he moved on to his next hurdle. It was guessing the correct price of a variety of grocery items, a "walk in the park" for this supermarket cashier.

After winning the car, and paying \$900 in sales taxes and registration fees, Pimlott drove off in his new vehicle, but not for long.

"My parents really needed new transportation more than I did," he said. "So, I gave them the Neon and I took their old car," (a 1992 Acura Vigor with 200,000 miles on it)."

Customers at Safeway still mention his appearance on the show every now and then, and Pimlott always breaks into a broad smile. He's able to do that a lot better now since recovering from an attack of Bell's palsy, a disease that affects facial muscles.

"The disease kicked-in right after I became a Union member," he said. "I came to appreciate the tremendous health care benefits we get, just as I appreciate the job security and all the other great benefits we get as members of the Union."