

Patient Testimony/SB9 Proponent

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My name is Mark Pedersen. I am a founder of CPN Institute, a national not-for-profit educational organization.

I lived in a very polluted little town – Herculaneum, Missouri. That's what made me ill. In my previous life I was a certified welder and pipefitter and I worked in power plants. I also had a small computer consulting business (12 commercial clients) and a benevolence ministry (food pantry and related services). I regularly worked 80 + hours a week.

While remodeling my home, I was exposed to heavy levels of lead, cadmium and arsenic—the byproducts of lead smelting which is the primary industry for that community.

My exposures stripped me of my profession, my ministry, my life, my family and my health.

It was back in 1997 when I discovered a small blip on a fibromyalgia newsgroup that stated that cannabis could be effective for treating fibromyalgia pain. After a few months of using it, I discovered that it also took away the migraines that even experimental drugs could not touch. It helped the seizures, the neuropathy in my hands and feet as well as the fibromyalgia pain. Perhaps the most profound for me was how it restored my long term memory ...priceless memories like the births of my three children that at once were lost.

Why did I experience such profound benefit? As it turns out, all mammals are born with what is called an Endocannabinoid System. In simple terms this is a lipid messaging system.

When we introduce plant based or phytocannabinoids to the body, the phytocannabinoids are similar enough to the endogenous components (Endocannabinoids) to perform as a supplement. They fit the endogenous receptors: the endocannabinoid receptors that are found throughout the body.

What we know of the Endocannabinoid System is that it basically maintains and regulates all of the primary systems of the body, homeostasis being the objective. Recent research suggests it may well be our primary endocrine system. If this is the case, it's vital for humans to access cannabis safely.

When a breast tumor develops, very quickly endocannabinoid receptors appear about the tumor and engage the cells in Apoptosis (programmed cell death). One of the attributes of the Endocannabinoid system is the ability to isolate and terminate cancerous tumors. The health of this endogenous system really determines whether or not the tumor is allowed to remain.

I began making oil primarily so that I could teach others how to do so. I knew all too well of the miracles that have surrounded cannabis oil through my own journey. A journey that has allowed me the pleasure of watching countless miracles happen with cannabis when modern medicine had written patients off

without hope. Once the world truly realizes the miraculous abilities of this plant there will be no way we could ever meet the demand it will create.

Over the last eight years I have met and interviewed many people including city councilmen, mayors, governors, nurses, scientists – but mostly patients. Over 200 of my video interviews can be found on YouTube. So many illnesses are positively impacted by cannabis. Once you understand how the endocannabinoid system works within our own bodies it makes sense. Cannabis supplements a system we already have in the human body. What a perfect way to heal!

The fact is cannabis is nontoxic. Science has overwhelmingly proven that. In fact, cannabis is food. It has been food for humanity for thousands of years. A superfood more nutritious than flax!

That's really what gives me the authority to make cannabis oil for the sick and dying. It's food. In fact, there are many patients who would not be with us today if it were not for my oil. Cannabis oil. High THC, Full Extract Cannabis Oil. Concentrated food.

“Let your food be your medicine and your medicine be your food.”

I will give you a few examples of those who have been healed by this miracle plant:

Breanna came from Michigan to live with us. She is 26 years old and the mother of a three year old with special needs. Prior to the move she was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Michigan surgeons urged the immediate removal of most of her stomach. Instead, she made the move to Colorado and began taking cannabis oil that I prepared for her, along with drinking raw cannabis juice—a non-psychoactive superfood that allows phytocannabinoids to boost the immune system very rapidly.

Within weeks of arriving at our home, she was rushed to the emergency room where they discovered that her tumor had broken free and was hanging by a small band of tissue. Although we are talking about a Colorado emergency room, doctors were still quite shocked and had no idea how to proceed.

Breanna returned home and later passed the tumor. She is currently cancer free.

Little Nova Leigh was only three when I first heard of her plight. Her young parents did not have much and were living in Austin, Texas. They were ill prepared to have a child with a condition like Schizencephaly.

Little Nova had been born with only 24% of her brain. Seizures began not long after her birth. Controlling her seizures quickly became impossible in conventional terms. Specialists came up with only two options. The first treatment option was a drug that caused permanent blindness. The doctors' defense was Schizencephaly patients have questionable degrees of blindness due to narrowed optic nerves, so doctors considered blindness to be acceptable.

The second option involved removing two-thirds of her remaining brain—without any promise that the procedure would impact her seizures and knowing it may well kill her.

This young couple opted to place most of their earthly possessions at the dumpster, loading into the car mostly what was required to care for their disabled child and headed for Colorado. They had no idea how they were going to get medicine for their child or how they would live.

I was in touch with them almost from the moment their journey began. Days later they arrived at our home. We prepared a pediatric dose of cannabis oil, roughly one gram per ounce of high grade olive oil.

Immediately upon administration of a dose through Nova Leigh's feeding tube (she does not have the capacity for a normal oral dose) her seizures stopped. What emerged in the weeks and months to come was in all reality the rebirth of this child. Not only did Nova Leigh's seizures continue to diminish, but her eyes, which once wandered about, became fixed on her parent's faces. She reached out and touched her father's beard. Nova began to mimic sounds from her mother – so many things that were thought impossible when she was in almost constant seizure.

The specialists in Austin told Nova Leigh's parents that it was impossible for cannabis to help her seizures. They're still scratching their heads. Her new neurologist in Colorado is quite curious because he's seeing more and more cases that have these types of positive outcomes—miracles really!

Gaige is ten years old. He's a refugee from Missouri. A month before his mom and dad packed up their family and moved to Colorado Gaige was on life-support. He was dying. Seizures completely altered not only his life but that of his whole family. He couldn't live a normal life, go to school or play like other kids.

These days, Gaige looks and acts like any ten year old boy. The only difference, he receives a small pediatric dose of cannabis oil. A dose that his school nurse calls "incredible" and "therapeutically dosed" due to his seizure control and increased performance in school.

It was a costly thing what Gaige's mother and father had to do. Not every family is as fortunate, or can afford uprooting themselves and settling in an unfamiliar and distant place. Now a healthier young man, Gaige's only regret is that his treatment binds him to the boundaries of the state and convicts him of being a criminal solely on the basis of his life saving treatment. He misses his cousins and grandparents but when asked at school what he wanted to do when he grows up he gave an interesting answer, he said "I want to make cannabis oil so other kids get well like me."

Little Isaiah wasn't quite three when his young refugee parents brought him to our home. They were Nebraska natives and like so many others, they were in hopes that what they had seen on television might be true for their son.

Isaiah had suffered multiple kinds of seizures for most of his life. Adult doses of seizure drugs only exacerbated his convulsions. The parents knew they had to do something...anything to stop their child's seizures. Cannabis was their only hope.

Entering our home, it was all the young father could do to carry his flailing son into our living room and sit him down. We sat and talked for a little while as we assured the couple that cannabis posed no hazard for their young child.

The mom asked if she could administer a pediatric dose sublingually while they were there. With poor Isaiah flopping his head from side to side it was difficult, but mom pressed in with the needleless syringe and deposited the tincture between his teeth and lip.

Three minutes passed as I observed Isaiah. His eyes rolling about, arms and head flailing—a near constant experience at this point. But suddenly he stopped. Isaiah seemed to wake up. Intently, he scanned the room. When his father spoke, Isaiah slowly rotated on his lap and gazed into his father's eyes. Surprised, his father stated "He's never acknowledged me like that before!" It had been over two years since he'd looked either of his parents in the eyes because of constant seizures and the anti-epileptic drugs he was prescribed.

In the months that followed Isaiah has continued to grow, exploring a life that is virtually free of seizures. Just as important, Isaiah is free of the toxic pharmaceuticals that caused so much harm to his tiny body. He now follows his mom around the house, shouting “Mommy!”

What better evidence is there that cannabis is good therapy?

Truly, healing shouldn’t know boundaries. Kansas children suffer the same illnesses and afflictions as Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas children do. I know. I have made oil for children who are refugees of Kansas. How can we deny these children, our most vulnerable? Knowing it’s safe for even those whose lives hang by a thread, why do we jail our adults for appreciating its benefits or incarcerate parents for seeking relief for their children?

The truth is there. I live with it daily. The miracles? They accompany us perpetually. As for Kansas patients, they shouldn’t have to leave their home or their state to appreciate these things or to save the life of a loved one. Kansas families should have the assurance of a safe holistic choice apart from harmful and dangerous pharmaceutical drugs without fear of criminal prosecution.

It’s time to put away the hypocrisy and accept the truth we know about cannabis. It’s food. And Kansas patients deserve the healing it brings.