

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Kelly ([00:00](#)):

Hi. Kelly Wangara. Michael's Pizzas and Subs. Just getting up every morning is a blessing. Two years ago, I had a ... I thought it was indigestion. I had a when ... As a matter of fact, I was at work, and I was feeling low and just different pains and stuff. I don't know if I experienced that here or not, but I was just drinking Sprite and stuff like that. Taking Xanax and things. Called my doctor's office. They told me to go up Hopkins. Still worked; I worked a 12-hour shift that day. And went up Hopkins. I was still in the ER, popped a Xanax. They'd taken my EKGs and stuff. Told me not to take no more. That night, transported me upstairs. And the next day they did the stent.

Speaker 2 ([00:38](#)):

So you literally endured a heart attack while you were on the job here and you finished your shift?

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Kelly ([00:43](#)):

Not only that. It would be about a year, a year and a half before that, I had a stroke. I was over there making spaghetti. Had numbness in my arm all the way up to here. They didn't even realize it. And I didn't experience a lot of that. But I'm still here, so. I don't know if it's dedication or just crazy.