

Nearly-blind hairstylist praised by clients for her 'amazing' work

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Martins could still see well after the retina in her left eye detached 15 years ago, but that all changed in 2004 when she says the retina in her right eye detached.

"I wanted to commit suicide," says Martins. She continued to own the salon, but did not work for two years and spent her days at home "very depressed."

But after watching an episode of the *Dr. Phil* show, Martins decided it was time to get over the depression and get back to work.

She says her clients urged her to come back, so she did this past September.

"My customers gave me a second chance," she says.

She says those that have come back to her are amazed at the job she does on their hair.

"People have come out of here crying. They say I do a better job than people who can see," says Martins.

Farrimond says she has been coming to Martins for six years to have her hair cut and styled.

"I'm very happy. They are very good cuts," says Farrimond.

Trenea Benyon is another client who was happy to see Martins back in the salon.

"She's fabulous," says Benyon. "She's just as good as she was (before she lost her sight)."

She wasn't hesitant at all to give Martins a try after she returned to work.

She says she doesn't notice much difference in the cuts now compared to when Martins used to cut her hair, except now Benyon says Martins "moves her whole body" while cutting.

Darlene Ballantyne, another client of Martins, admits she was a little hesitant to have her do her hair, but she's glad she did.

"She just amazed me," says Ballantyne. "She streaked my hair and cut my hair. She did it with no problem, no mistakes."

"She did a fantastic job. I came out of there with the best haircut and best style. She was great."

Seeing someone overcome the challenges Martins faces was inspiring, she says.

"I came out of there with a different feeling about life," she says.

(Lisa Tallyn can be reached at ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

Incorrect number listed

A story in the Jan. 3 *Independent & Free Press* about Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRVs), manufactured by Venmar Ventilation Inc., potentially being a fire hazard contained an incorrect phone number for consumers to call to have the ventilators upgraded.

The correct number is 1-866-441-4645.

The *Independent & Free Press* regrets the error.

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