

Piano teacher's resolve after losing use of legs

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Piano teacher Shirley Salzedo lost the use of her legs

A PIANO teacher who lost the use of her legs through illness is determined to keep working and use the experience to help disabled children.

Shirley Salzedo, of Whitton Avenue West, Northolt, believes she may have had multiple sclerosis (MS) since she was a child. The condition, affecting the central nervous system, interferes with messages between the brain and other parts of the body.

But it was a bad case of pneumonia about a year ago which made it worse and culminated in her losing the feeling in her legs.

The 48-year-old, who has more than 25 years experience in teaching the piano, said: "I ended up in Northwick Park Hospital, then sent to a number of other hospitals, and I slowly lost the use of my legs. I had problems walking as a child but wasn't diagnosed with MS then."

In October Ms Salzedo was referred for rehabilitation to the Shackleton Medical Centre in Shackleton Road, Southall, where she praises for helping her to continue the job she loves.

She said: "They've encouraged me to work, letting me take taxi ambulances to go to the schools I teach at and allowing pupils to come to me. I have my keyboard here and they let me use a computer. Keeping myself busy is helping me get better."

As well as private tuition, Ms Salzedo teaches at three schools, in Harrow, West Drayton and Watford, who have agreed to keep her job open until she returns later this month. And Ms Salzedo plans to branch out further and use the experience of being disabled to her advantage.

She said: “I’m going to take an MA in music therapy, I think music can help people who have a debilitating condition in both a physical and mental way. Just because you are disabled doesn’t mean you can’t be musical, I have experience of that.

“I’m determined that however disabled I might get I will keep working and studying and helping children. And It is the staff at the Shackleton medical centre who have really encouraged me and helped me to keep working.”

To find out more about Ms Salzedo's piano tutoring visit www.magicpiano.co.uk or email her at shirleysalzedo@yahoo.co.uk