



*Tammy Hall, Principal,  
Willcox High School*

# The Trust

*in partnership with the Alliance and SCIP*

*In 2019 the Trust and Alliance will be releasing a series of stories to remind our members of the pools' mission, how we help Arizona school districts, and what sets us apart from typical insurers.*

*For this third installment, we spoke with Ms. Tammy Hall, principal at Willcox High School, about her incredible recovery from a workplace injury. She credits her successful return to work in part to the support she received from the Alliance.*

In 2011 Tammy Hall was a PE/health instructor at Willcox High School. On November 29, 2011 she was in the gym helping to set up for the first basketball game of the season. Tammy used a lift to get near the ceiling to fix a speaker that wasn't working properly. Once she was 20 feet in the air, she realized her positioning wasn't quite right. As she attempted to get closer to the speaker, the lift began shaking under her feet. The next thing she knew, the lift tipped over with her in the bucket.

Tammy doesn't remember much of what happened in the immediate aftermath. She was airlifted to Banner University Medical Center, where she underwent four surgeries over the next three days. She had sustained multiple facial injuries, a fractured left shoulder, and a fractured left femur.

Immediately following her injury, the Alliance connected Tammy with a case worker, Mary Ann. Mary Ann worked with Tammy and her partner throughout the duration of her recovery. "(Mary Ann) was wonderful to work with, her knowledge was amazing, and she always answered all of our questions. She kept us in the loop every step of the way, and overall was just fantastic," Tammy recalled.

After leaving the hospital, Tammy moved to a rehab facility where she stayed until December 23, meeting her goal to be home by Christmas. Once Tammy was back home, Mary Ann arranged for her to begin

physical therapy at the local hospital and continue her recovery.

As a result of her facial injuries, Tammy had her jaw wired shut. Unfortunately, during the procedure to remove the wires, there were some complications, which ultimately meant that Tammy had to have her jaw re-broken and re-wired. While this was a difficult setback, Mary Ann referred Tammy to a new doctor who expertly took over her care.

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In May of 2012, Tammy was released to return to work with no restrictions. Being a school teacher, she had summer break available for added recovery time. When she returned to work, she applied for the athletic director job and got it—demonstrating the value of getting right back on the horse. Once school resumed in the fall, Tammy was able to embrace her new role with no limitations, less than a year after her major injury.

Tammy ultimately made a complete recovery. She believes the Alliance played an important role: "Without the Alliance, I would not have been able to make the recovery I did. The adjusters were extremely professional, easy to talk to, and always there to answer all of my questions."

Tammy herself deserves most of the credit, of course. In 2013 she was nominated for the Fred Brick Memorial Foundation Rehabilitant of the Year. This award is presented to an injured Arizona worker who has overcome significant obstacles to reach their highest rehabilitation potential. Continuing her successful bounce-back, Tammy was recently named principal at Willcox High School.