

German Povolotsky

Almaty, Kazakhstan

German Povolotsky, 81, is unstoppable. He refuses to allow his disability and age to prevent him from living the best life he can within the limitations he faces.

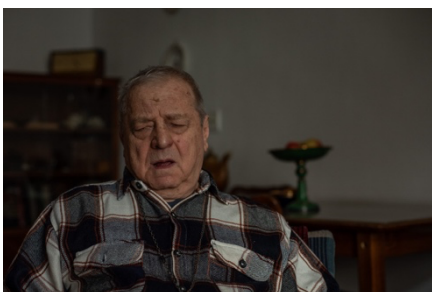
Before losing his eyesight nearly 20 years ago to complications from diabetes, German made a difficult but practical decision. Retirement and living a quiet life alone were not for him.

But as a passionate lifelong geologist who had followed in his famous parents' footsteps, German knew that without vision, he could not continue in his beloved profession. He came up with a new plan: he would make a complete career switch to another field that would allow him to work remotely from home despite being unable to see.



German began to research careers. He decided that computer programming would be the answer. He trained on his own until he had mastered the skill and became a freelance programmer. He continues in this work today, overcoming his vision challenge through creative technical solutions like using oversized fonts and writing code one word at a time. He feels useful, productive and happy.

Confined to his three-room, book-filled home, German had solved one problem but still had to figure out how, as a blind person, he could care for himself. At first, he received assistance from state-funded social workers. Taking advantage of his lack of sight, one of the aides stole part of his prized collection of minerals. When he discovered the loss, German devised a secret lock for his collection drawer. The minerals were safe for now, but German still worried that the aides could find a way to break into the drawer.



Then IFCJ came into his life. Through your commitment to providing support to destitute elderly, German now has a homecare worker who provides the personal care he needs. When the IFCJ Hesed homecare worker comes to his apartment to cook, clean and refill his pill box, German is relaxed because he trusts her. He enjoys their conversations and is grateful for her help and kindness.

"Thank you IFCJ," says German, his voice ripe with emotion, "You changed my life for the better."