



Laughing at pain

David Jacobson won't let arthritis defeat his body or his spirit

BY TRISH RILEY

David Jacobson's life changed dramatically at age 22. The handsome, always athletic young man had earned a reputation as one who pushed himself to the max — always excelling in sports and other challenges. Until the day he woke up and couldn't

get out of bed. Doctors on the Israeli kibbutz where he lived and worked (characteristically hard) said he had rheumatic fever complicated by a heart valve dysfunction and psoriatic arthritis. They packed him

back home to his mother's care, where he recovered from the acute problems. But he didn't begin to recover from the chronic arthritis until he learned to laugh about it.

Trish Riley is a freelance writer in Sunrise, Florida.

"I clearly remember the life-transforming event," Jacobson says, relaying that his mother had been so

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