







Patricia Martinez went through some difficult moments while battling her depression. After seeking professional help, she decided to manage her depression through exercise in addition to continuing to consult with her physician.

"I feel like exercise has helped me both physically and emotionally," she said. "Exercise keeps me active, instead of focusing on my thoughts and feeling more depressed."

Patricia explained that it's not healthy for a person with depression to be alone, crying and always thinking negative thoughts. "You need to motivate yourself," she said.

"Being in an exercise class is a very positive and friendly place. You get motivated while being there. You are surrounded by people with lots of energy."

Patricia also wants everyone to know that exercise is a great workout for men and women, young and old. "I encourage everyone to try exercise," she said. "The classes are free, and the benefits are many."

## **HEALTHY RECIPE: VEGGIE WRAP**

## **INGREDIENTS:**



2 medium bell peppers (red & green), seeded & sliced 1 onion, sliced 1 teaspoon canola oil 1 can (15 oz.) low-sodium black beans, drained and rinsed

 $\frac{1}{2}$  avocado, peeled and diced Juice from 1 lime  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped fresh cilantro 4. 8-inch whole-wheat tortillas 1 teaspoon chili powder (optional) 8 tablespoons fresh salsa (optional) 1 whole wheat wrap

## **PREPARATION:**

1. In a nonstick pan, sauté the peppers and onion in the canola oil for 5 minutes over medium heat. Add beans, stir well. Reduce heat to low and simmer about 5 minutes, then set aside.

2. In a small bowl, combine the avocado, lime juice, cilantro, and chili powder. Reserve half of the mixture for topping. Warm tortillas in the microwave or in a pan on the stovetop.

5. Fill a warmed tortilla with  $\frac{1}{4}$  beans mixture and  $\frac{1}{4}$  avocado mixture. Drizzle 2 tablespoons of salsa over the bean and avocado mixture.

6. Fold ends of the tortilla over. Roll up to make wraps. Top the veggie wraps with remaining avocado mixture. Follow this process for three other wraps.

## Learn the warning signs of mental illness

Many people are reluctant to talk about their problems, but that doesn't mean they don't have symptoms of mental illness.

