

Mary and Charles A. Parkhill Foundation For Spinal Cord Rehabilitation

Grant Recipient: Brad Ebenhoeh



See Reverse for Recipient Profile

Submission to Foundation Board of Directors for Consideration – from Charles Parkhill, President:

There is a young man, Brad Ebenhoeh, who has been getting PT and OT at The Recovery Project, two hours per day, twice a week, for several months following a traumatic brain injury - something along the line of a bursting brain tumor. He was a student at U of M in advanced sciences, and by all accounts he is a brilliant young man. He is paralyzed and did not talk much when he came to us. With speech therapy and use of a computerized touch screen, he is able to communicate. I have talked to his PT regarding his progress - he feels he has made significant progress, lacking strength and stamina but able to assist in transfers, and Brad is regaining some physical functionality. He feels he will regress without some physical regimen. His progress with OT is even more substantial. He is extremely hard working and doesn't miss an appointment; I've not seen many clients as universally loved by our staff.

We just learned that his past six months and all future therapy costs are rejected and terminated. He is scheduled for discharge this Friday. His family is distraught. I remember being in inpatient rehab and being notified that my anticipated three-week discharge date had been rescheduled for three days hence because of insurance. Mary and I were not ready, and I cannot describe the desolation I felt. We were fortunate enough to fight and prevail, but I never forgot the feeling. A few months later, at outpatient therapy with Polly, I witnessed a young man being told of an immediate discharge due to cessation of insurance reimbursement - the first discussion of any kind, regarding discharge. I knew he and his family were in for a devastatingly sad night, weekend, month, etc., and felt helpless. It was at that moment, I knew where our charitable efforts needed to be directed. Within a few weeks, Mary and I made donations to RIM and U of M, designated for short term continuation of therapy, in instances of abrupt discharge, to at least give the family a few weeks to come up with a plan. That, of course, led us to the common cause we now share.

Action:

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the grant and it was awarded May 6, 2008, to cover one hour with a trainer and one hour with an OT, twice a week, for a period of two months while the family sorts this out.

Recipient Profile – Pertinent information Provided by Candidate in Original Application

Name: Bradley Ebenhoeh
City, State: Roseville, MI
Birth Date: 08/16/1985
Injury Date: 04/15/2005
Injury Level: C-7, Diagnosed Incomplete
How Injured: AVM Right thalamus, affecting brain stem

Physical Problems: Wear AFO splint right leg, night splint right wrist, some trouble with speech. Left eye blindness, trouble with downward gaze.

Rehabilitation Results: Improvement at Special Tree, U of M. and The Recovery Project with home health care speech therapy. Improved greatly until insurance decided they were not going to pay anymore. Experienced some recovery using Saebo splint and Bioness stimulation.

Goals: In physical therapy, I want to work on my ability to walk with a cane. I am currently using a hemi-cane with moderate assistance. In occupational therapy, I want to work on my abilities to use my right arm independently. I am currently working with the Bioness and Saebo splints to regain function. I want to return to college to finish my degree in Engineering Physics. In coursework, I would like to focus on Aerospace Engineering.

Upon completion of my degree, I would like to work for NASA in some capacity. Maybe one day I could be the first disabled person in space. I would like to help others by fundraising for people who need therapy but are unable to afford it. I would like to meet new people by getting out to more social events. Currently, this is difficult for me because not every place is handicapped accessible. Eventually, I would like to become independent enough to live by myself.

Why Be Considered: I should be considered for this grant because I am responsible, motivated, and hard working. I am continually working on my dream of recovery. I am young and have great potential for improvement. I have a positive attitude, and the continuous support of my family and friends. This grant would allow me to continue therapy and achieve my goal of independence.

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Grant Recipient: Kim Caldwell



See Reverse for Recipient Profile

Submission to Foundation Board of Directors for Consideration – from Charles Parkhill, President:

I would like to recommend the granting of our first scholarship to Kimberly Caldwell. She comes highly recommended by the therapists and trainers that she has worked with. I believe she is the embodiment of what we're looking for in a grantee. Highly motivated and hard working, she has exhausted insurance benefits, has been trying to pay personally and those resources have evaporated.

We feel she can benefit from more intensity and are proposing a scholarship to cover one hour of physical therapy + one hour with a trainer, three times a week for six months.

Action:

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the grant and it was awarded March 3, 2008.

Recipient Profile – Pertinent information Provided by Candidate in Original Application

Name: Kimberly Caldwell

City: Lake Orion

State: MI

Birth Date: 5/1/1973

Injury Level: T2

Diagnosis: Incomplete

Injury Date: July 22, 2006

How Injured: From the disease Transverse Myelitis

Hospital Treated At: Royal Oak, Beaumont

Support System: I live with my fiancée and three boys; My fiancée travels for his job, so my parents have to help me and my kids. They have been here for me since day one, and have given up their lives for me and my family

Physical Problems: I am paralyzed from my chest down.

Upper Extremities Ability: My arms are getting stronger everyday. Overall, I have to use my arms and hands for everything, so I ignore any pain that I may have.

Trunk Ability: I can sit up, but not completely straight without pushing up on something.

Lower Extremities Ability: Numb. I can wiggle my left foot, and I believe my hip extenders are kicking in a little. My right leg is stubborn; I can barely wiggle a toe.

Rehabilitation Results: I have not had much return like some patients with TM; I have been feeling more muscles contract in different body parts. I just need the right therapy to build these muscles up so I can try to walk again.

Physical Therapy Benefits: Done for the year. I have been done with therapy for a couple of months now because my insurance company cut me off.

Goals: My #1 goal is, obviously, to walk again, and I believe that I have the attitude to make that happen. I have stayed positive throughout this whole year; I don't know how, but I did. I want to build on anything and everything that is coming back.

Why Be Considered: Because I am a fighter and I am a hard worker. I was struck by this awful disease that has left me paralyzed from my chest down, but I refuse to let it take over my body forever. I believe with hard work and determination I can make anything happen. I just have not had the right therapy or the right therapist who worked me hard and believed in me and my potential. I feel that my other therapy experiences were not one-on-one. Because I was there, it was the therapist's job to work with me – that's all. I don't think that anyone believed in me, and that they gave up on my legs since day one. My legs were everything and I want them back; I want to try every last available option before I throw in any towel. I have not had the chance to prove to anyone how much I want to fight this disease and the odds. I have never once, in any therapy or with any therapist, said the words "I can't" or "NO". I have always tried to do whatever I was asked to do!

I want to prove to everyone who has a time limit on this disease that there is hope; that we can walk again if we fight hard enough and never give up. I am a mother of three boys. I was always very active with them and their school and their sports. I want that life back. I want to walk again. Let's beat the odds together.