

When we have hope, we discover powers within ourselves we may have never known — the power to make sacrifices, to endure, to heal and to love. Once we choose hope, everything is possible.



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Message from the Chairman of the Board and the President & CEO

Much of our world is driven by chance. An idea. A possibility. As Christopher Reeve once said,

"So many of our dreams at first seem impossible . . . "

Then along comes a spark of hope.

"... then they seem improbable ..."

Followed by an unwavering confidence, conviction and belief.

". . . and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable."

In perhaps the simplest terms, that's what we do. Transform possibilities into realities. If we were to measure our work by our goal—to change lives—2017 was certainly a banner year.

In fact, our small yet mighty organization continues to prove that every impossible dream has an inevitable solution when you never give up and charge forward. What was only an idea a couple of years ago, the use of epidural stimulation in spinal cord injury recovery, is now an FDA-approved study, signaling the most significant chapter in our journey to bring an effective treatment to our community.

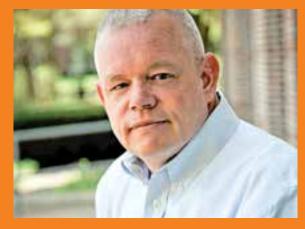
Along the way, we've helped hundreds of thousands of families through our Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) programs. And, in turn, thousands of you gave back, as Reeve Foundation donors, advocates, Team Reeve members and so much more. When the PRC was at risk in 2017, close to 1,500 people took action via our advocacy platform to demand that their congressional leaders protect this invaluable resource. Your support is truly humbling.

While there is certainly a lot to celebrate, we cannot rest on our laurels. There is more work to be done, more funds to be raised, and a promise to work tirelessly to transform lives through our quality of life and research efforts. Our success rests on our ability to come together and make the best care and most transformative cures more than just a possibility...we need to make it our reality.

We have never been more proud or excited to be part of this mission, and hopeful for what's to come. We have had the opportunity to see the beginning of the future and the inevitable accomplishments yet to be achieved. Just imagine what next year will bring.







John M. Hughes, Chairman



Peter Wilderotter, President & CEO

RESEARCH

CLOSING IN ON CURES FOR THE 5.4 MILLION AMERICANS LIVING WITH PARALYSIS

[THE BIG IDEA]

In September, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved a feasibility study to test the life-enhancing effects of epidural stimulation on people with spinal cord injury. Funded by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation through its Big Idea campaign, the study will measure the extent to which epidural stimulation can facilitate the ability to stand and enable voluntary control of leg movements below the injury level, and improve cardiovascular function in 36 chronic, complete participants. Researchers led by principal investigator Dr. Susan Harkema at the University of Louisville's Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center are seeking to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of epidural stimulation as a treatment for chronic complete spinal cord injury and to expedite its availability to individuals who can benefit from it.

The University of Louisville is currently screening potential candidates for the six-year study. Each participant will be enrolled for two years. Those interested in being considered can add their information to the University's Victory Over Paralysis patient registry: victoryoverparalysis.org/participate-in-research.

For more information or to help the campaign reach its \$15 million goal, visit *ReeveBigIdea.org*.

"With the start of participant enrollment, we are closer than ever to bringing a therapy that will effectively transform the lives of individuals living with spinal cord injury and give hope to those who were told that recovery was impossible."

— Peter Wilderotter, President and CEO of the Reeve Foundation



Andrew Meas, one of the initial four research subjects implanted with an epidural stimulation device in 2014, can now stand and move even with the stimulator turned off. His progress is an exciting outgrowth of the original research the Reeve Foundation helped to fund and is a wonderful example of how an investment in research can be leveraged into additional discoveries.



NORTH AMERICAN CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK® (NACTN)

The Riluzole in Spinal Cord Injury Study (RISCIS) had enrolled 110 out of the target 351 subjects at the end of 2017. The multi-center, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blinded trial is designed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Riluzole in the treatment of patients with acute spinal cord injuries. Riluzole aids in preventing cell death and has been widely studied for neurotrauma and neurodegenerative disease. This drug is approved for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) but is not approved for spinal cord injury. Currently there are 23 total sites worldwide open for enrollment for the RISCIS trial, with additional sites opening in the future.

To understand how the body actually processes the drug, a sub-study of Riluzole's pharmacology (PK) had enrolled 21 out of the target 50 subjects by the end of 2017. The PK sub-study is being conducted only by the NACTN clinical centers participating in RISCIS and is wholly funded by the two-year, \$2.5 million Department of Defense (DOD) contract awarded to the Reeve Foundation in 2016.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONSORTIUM ON SPINAL CORD INJURY

The Reeve Foundation and its International Consortium on Spinal Cord Injury sponsored a major scientific symposium in February—Spinal Cord Injury: Translational Approaches to Mechanistic Studies. The two-day gathering, held at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, CA, brought together top international researchers in the field. Sixteen presentations covered a range of topics including clinical trials, technological approaches to functional recovery, and discoveries of molecular pathways that may lead to new therapies for spinal cord dysfunction. At the symposium opening, Reeve Foundation board member Will Reeve reminded this prominent segment of the research community how much people living with a spinal cord injury are counting on them.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Ben Barres, M.D., Ph.D. (1954-2017)

In December, Stanford University School of Medicine neurobiologist **Ben Barres**, **M.D.,Ph. D.**, who ran one of the seven labs in the Reeve-funded Research Consortium, passed away at the age of 63. A scientific pioneer, Barres revolutionized the field of neuroscience with his discoveries regarding the crucial role played by glial cells (the cells in the brain that aren't nerve cells) in sculpting and maintaining the brain's wiring diagram. As a postdoctoral fellow and a Reeve Consortium

Associate in Barres' Lab,
Shane Liddelow, Ph. D.,
co-authored a 2017 Nature paper
with Barres that focused on
astrocytes, the major glial
subtype in the brain and their
unexpected dark side in neurological injury and disease. Liddelow
will expand on Barres' important work in his own and recently
opened New York
University lab.



Shane Liddelow, Ph.D.

NEURORECOVERY NETWORK® (NRN)

In 2017, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation NeuroRecovery Network® (NRN) expanded its reach with a second pediatric site at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the opening of Neurokinex Redefining Possibilities, the first international NRN Community Fitness and Wellness center Affiliate in Gatwick, England. At the same time, Chris Leeuw was working to build NeuroHope, a new NRN Community Fitness and Wellness Facility in Indianapolis, IN.

To learn more, visit ChristopherReeve.org/research



Pediatric Patient at Frazier Rehab in Louisville, KY

NRN SPOTLIGHT



"In traditional healthcare, people with a spinal cord injury are discharged from inpatient rehabilitation, and insurance will reimburse only for a limited number of outpatient visits. Then they go home," said **Chris Leeuw,** who sustained an incomplete C4 spinal cord injury in 2010. "People need more time to maximize their recovery. They need more time to learn skills for their new life, and in

many communities, there is no place for them to go. There is a void in long-term rehab options."

Six months after his injury, Leeuw, a native of Indianapolis, traveled to South Jordan, UT, and spent a year and a half rehabbing at Neuroworx, a former Reeve Foundation NeuroRecovery Network® (NRN) Community Fitness and Wellness Facility, at the time.

He returned home in 2012 walking, independent and determined to open a like-minded center in Indiana.

"Neuroworx understood neurological recovery and had the resources and experience to help me get my life back," said Leeuw. "Living with a spinal cord injury is not just about recovery, it is about long-term maintenance. That was their vision, and I became inspired to bring that standard of care and school of thought to people recovering in Indiana."

In 2015, Leeuw partnered with physical therapist Nora Foster, and the pair opened NeuroHope as a part-time clinic in a small gym at the University of Indianapolis Krannert School of Physical Therapy. In 2017, NeuroHope received an invitation to join the NRN and a nearly \$1 million grant from the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Research Fund which allowed NeuroHope to expand.

"We are thrilled to be part of the NRN. It gives us a chance to reach more people and bring that level of care to Indiana for affordable private pay rates," said Leeuw. "Healthcare is great here, but we want to go beyond that, where people can get continued care. Our hope is to put people in the best position to maximize their quality of life and recovery."

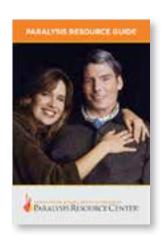
PARALYSIS RESOURCE CENTER (PRC)

OFFERING MILLIONS OF FAMILIES FREE ACCESS TO RESOURCES NOT AVAILABLE ANYWHERE ELSE

Each year, the Reeve Foundation adds new resources to our collection of available information designed to present important topics in a medically sound and easily understandable format. Community needs and inquiries drive topic selection, with a continuing focus on improving the quality of life for the millions of people living with a spinal cord injury. Listed here are just a few of the additions from 2017.

UPDATED PARALYSIS RESOURCE GUIDE

The newly released fourth edition of the *Paralysis Resource Guide* (PRG) includes even more valuable information and resources for individuals living with paralysis, their caregivers and family members. Now, in addition to updated information on secondary conditions, travel, employment, benefits and recreation, the guide highlights the latest assistive tools and technology available including home modifications, wheelchairs, and environmental controls as well as wireless connectivity including eye gaze technology, voice recognition and more.



A new profile section features ten stories from people who have benefited from PRC programs and resources. There are also entire sections devoted to caregivers, military and veterans and children living with paralysis. With more than 200,000 copies of the PRG distributed around the world to date, the guide continues to serve as a vital resource for anyone whose life is impacted by paralysis.

To order a FREE copy, please call (800) 539-7309, email infospecialist@ChristopherReeve.org or go to *ChristopherReeve.org/Guide*.

"Being able to go online and connect to information and research resources is incredible. A lot of confidence can come from reading others' stories when it is hard to see the possibilities for yourself."

— Dain Dillingham, Seattle, Washington

TOOLKIT FOR BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

Playgrounds are often a hub of community activity, bringing children together to play side-by-side with their siblings and friends, and providing a safe place for families to socialize. Yet for the 2.8 million schoolaged children who live with a disability in the United States, the lack of inclusive playgrounds can lead to a strong sense of isolation. While the Reeve Foundation has funded and supported many initiatives to build inclusive playgrounds, it is also important for individuals to take up the cause and push to include inclusive facilities within their communities. To help inspire advocates to be a source for change, the Reeve Foundation created the Toolkit for Building an Inclusive Community Playground, a comprehensive resource of best practices for creating an inclusive playground in your local area.



Download the toolkit for free at *ChristopherReeve.org/about-us/publications*.

NEW HEALTH RESOURCES

There are a wide range of health issues that often accompany life with paralysis. These secondary conditions can lead to specific complications if not managed correctly. Since current medical knowledge and individual body functions can change over time, it is important to revisit the most recent information to maintain a good quality of life.

dysfunction often occurs with paralysis. When the nerves that control the bowel no longer function properly, significant health risks can result. In partnership with healthcare product manufacturer Hollister, the Reeve Foundation created a 14-page, comprehensive booklet on best practices related to bowel management, including information on different bowel syndromes, bowel

programs, equipment to use, and tactics to prevent issues and infection. Bowel management topics were also featured on Nurse Linda's August webinar.

Pressure Injuries & Skin Management Booklet: Limited mobility and impaired sensation can lead to a range of skin problems. Since the best defense against skin complications is prevention, the Reeve Foundation created a 14-page, comprehensive booklet on best practices related to skin management including causes, identification, treatment and prevention of skin issues. Featuring helpful and accurate illustrations and different skin tone representations, the booklet was created in response to community demand and a marked increase in skin-related issues that affect quality of life.

Health Series Videos: In correlation with the many written materials related to the medical and health issues associated with spinal cord injuries, the Reeve Foundation has created a series of short, under-two-minute videos to build awareness for potentially life-threatening complications. This year, videos featured deep vein thrombosis (DVT), sepsis and bladder management.

Visit the **Reeve Foundation YouTube Channel** for health videos and archived webinars. A selection of free health management booklets is available to download at *ChristopherReeve.org/about-us/publications*. Additional booklets and videos will be included in the coming months.

MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH Bowel Management To reach those impacted by all for

RECYCLECT STREET

To reach those impacted by all forms of paralysis, our multicultural outreach initiative strives to engage, educate and provide awareness within underserved communities of diverse populations where direct services may be lacking and/or overlooked. One of the best ways to reach this population is through engagements within national and local conferences, community events and speaking seminars.

In 2017, the PRC exhibited at 23 national conferences reaching 60,000 people and seven multicultural events reaching more than 5,500 people. The PRC exhibited at the June Mississippi disAbility MegaConference in Jackson which showcased the need for resources in underserved areas throughout the South. In July, the Reeve Foundation participated in the Third Annual Disability Pride Parade in New York City which drew more than 7,500 participants focused on promoting inclusion, awareness and visibility.



QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS

MORE THAN \$1.7 MILLION AWARDED TO 122 PROGRAMS IN 2017



Active Disabled Americans

Key Largo, Florida \$17,000 for Adapted Sports

Snorkeling, fishing, island exploring, dolphin watching and many other activities are now available to Key Largo residents and visitors through Active Disabled Americans, which received a grant to purchase a new accessible pontoon boat that can accommodate six guests who use wheelchairs as well as ten additional individuals. The only program of its kind in the area, the boat provides unparalleled opportunities for individuals living with paralysis to reconnect with nature in ways they may not have thought possible.



Angelica Patient Assistance Program

New York, New York \$8,495 for Arts

Angelica Patient Assistance Program offers recreational, educational, cultural and social programs that engage, stimulate and promote community among the approximately 800 rehabilitative and long-term medical patients at Coler Hospital on Roosevelt Island and Carter Hospital in Harlem. The grant supported creativity workshops for 48 young men living with spinal cord injury as a result of gun violence, most of whom are persons of color and economically disadvantaged. The funds paid for an arts ethnographer as well as the equipment to capture their stories in 12 podcasts.



Trach Mommas of Louisiana

Baton Rouge, Louisiana \$24,990 for Caregiving

For individuals living with tracheostomies, access to life-saving equipment, including ventilators, oxygen concentrators, suction machines and feeding pumps, is critical. With limited battery capacity, these machines can be a challenge for frequent and often long-distance car travel to specialty care. The Trach Mommas of Louisiana received a grant for 40 power inverter equipment packages which allow medical equipment to be powered by a car battery. The grant also supports consultant costs for emergency preparedness training and mileage for equipment distribution and training.

To learn more, visit ChristopherReeve.org/QOL

In 2018, the Quality of Life Grants Program is strategically piloting a tiered grants structure to facilitate maximum impact and better serve people living with paralysis and their families.

ADVOCACY

OVER 4,000 INDIVIDUALS HAVE JOINED THE REEVE FOUNDATION ADVOCACY COMMUNITY

COMPLEX REHAB TECHNOLOGY (CRT)

Properly configured wheelchairs and other mobility equipment, known collectively as complex rehab technology (CRT), are critical to the quality of life and independence for all people living with a spinal cord injury. About ten percent of the Medicare population utilizes CRT with their wheelchairs, yet Medicare does not cover more complex equipment. To avoid scheduled cuts to CRT coverage, the Reeve Foundation advocacy community and the ITEM Coalition (Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid) submitted a series of six letters to Congress and the Administration regarding CRT issues. While advocacy was successful in protecting reimbursement for CRT Group 3 power wheelchair accessories, legislation is still pending to restore access to CRT manual wheelchairs.

RAISE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT

At the end of January 2018, President Trump signed the *Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act* into law. Designed to identify specific actions that providers, government officials, employers and others can take to recognize and support caregivers, the Act gives the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 18 months to develop a national family caregiver strategy with recommendations from the federal, private and public sectors. A two-year advocacy priority of the Reeve Foundation, this bipartisan measure was sponsored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and by Reps. Gregg Harper (R-MS) and Kathy Castor (D-FL).



ITEM Coalition holding a forum to discuss the cuts surrounding CRT coverage

TAX REFORM: THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

Thanks in part to the Reeve Foundation advocacy community's work, the 2017 Tax Reform Bill slightly improves disability tax benefits to allow a deduction for medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income. The final bill also maintains the deduction small businesses can get on any facility accessibility improvements. This credit helps to reduce resistance and provide financial incentive to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Joseph Preti with Congresswoman Suzan DelBene

Joseph Preti has always been active and involved in social issues and government policy. Part of his job responsibility prior to his injury was to serve as Congressional Awareness Coordinator for UPS. After a 2010 fall at home left the then 59-year-old with a T3 incomplete injury with no function below his chest, his advocacy focus shifted to support the paralysis community.

"When I was injured, my wife and I turned to the Reeve Foundation as

a source for resources and information. I used the website to learn about adaptive sports, services in my area and other injury-related information," said Preti who became a Reeve Foundation certified peer mentor in January. "I just want to be involved and give back to the community."

In his home state of Washington, Preti is also an active Reeve Foundation regional advocacy champion. He serves on the board of the Seattle Alliance for People with Disabilities and the Here and Now Project, a nonprofit group dedicated to connecting and empowering the paralysis community in the Pacific Northwest.

"In February, I met with U.S. Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, representing Washington's 1st District to advocate for the disability community," said Preti. "I thanked her for her support of Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and other safety net programs and for her "No" vote on H.R. 620, which would severely impact the penalties for violations of the ADA."

Preti also gained her support for continued funding of the Paralysis Resource Center since President Trump's proposed budget cuts all funding. Preti will be meeting with the two U.S. Senators from his state as well.

"Since my injury, I've realized that I still have a life left to live and many things to be grateful for," said Preti. "The needs of the disability community are drastically underserved and I wanted to be part of helping to correct that."



Eric & Karen LeGrand with Congressman Tom Cole

In June, Eric LeGrand shared his story and spoke about the critical importance of rehabilitation and habilitation services and devices at a Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill. Held in the midst of Congress' debate of the American Health Care Act and hosted by the Coalition for the Preservation of Rehabilitation (in which the Reeve Foundation is a Steering Committee member), the bipartisan briefing featured rehab patient testimonials and assistive devices and technologies demonstrations as well as speeches from Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Representative Glenn Thompson (R-PA). Coalition members also participated in visits to more than 55 Senate offices. In addition, LeGrand spoke with the Appropriations Committee about the Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center, which likely helped restore funds in the House Appropriations bill.

To learn more, visit ChristopherReeve.org/advocacy

TEAM REEVE®

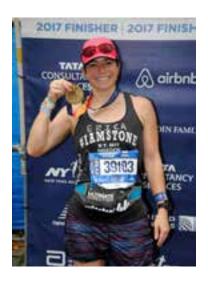
MORE THAN 3,500 TEAM REEVE PARTICIPANTS HAVE RAISED OVER \$7 MILLION TO DATE



Just three days after a 2016 skiing accident and spinal fusion surgery, Justin Pines started a list titled "Goals" while still in the ICU. The first item on the list? Complete a marathon. True to his word, Pines set his sights on beating his running time from 2015 and completed the 2017 **TCS New York City**Marathon in a racing wheelchair while raising more than \$14,000 for the Reeve Foundation. "Running and competing have always been a vital part of my life, and I knew in the very early days that no matter what was to come, I would find a way to return to the starting line."



In recognition of the one-year anniversary of her mother Isabel's spinal cord injury, Stevie (Stephanie) Hurley ran in both the TCS New York City Marathon and Bank of America Chicago Marathon in 2017. Always up for a challenge, Hurley joined Team Reeve in 2016 in appreciation for the information and mentorship she has received from the Reeve Foundation.





For Erica Bazerkanian, running the 2017 **TCS New York City Marathon** was much more than a personal accomplishment. It was an emotional tribute to her beloved father, Jeffrey Stone, who had a spinal cord stroke in June 2016 and passed away five months later, but not before she had an opportunity to share with him her marathon goals and commitment to help others with spinal cord injury. Together with ten friends, Bazerkanian formed Team #iamstone to carry on her father's love of running while raising almost \$60,000 for the Reeve Foundation. "We miss Dad desperately every single day and will do our best to make him proud and fulfill his dreams to bring help and hope to those in need."

Going the distance—In 2017, more than 100 people participated in marathons across the country as part of Team Reeve



After avid marathoner Tom Sloope sustained a spinal cord injury, his wife and two daughters joined together with two family friends to form Team Heart & Sole and complete the 2017 **Bank of America Chicago Marathon** in Tom's honor. Together the team raised almost \$10,000 for the Reeve Foundation. "We run for our dad/husband and millions of others who are living with paralysis and refuse to give up hope that we will find a cure!"



Julieanne Mascera put her mind and body to the test by conquering the October **Tough Mudder Half** in Englishtown, NJ. Along with three friends, Mascera formed Stags for Team Reeve as a tribute to her alma mater, Fairfield University. Inspired by the Reeve Foundation's work, she chose to support Team Reeve in honor of her boss, IMG College's president and Reeve Foundation board member Tim Pernetti.

In 2018, Team Reeve became part of the official Tough Mudder Charity Family and will participate in Tough Mudders nationwide.

JOIN THE TEAM! Learn more at TeamReeve.org

TEAM REEVE® SPOTLIGHT



"If it weren't for the Reeve Foundation, I would not have met the man of my dreams," said Julie Grauert, Rob's girlfriend of four years. After meeting Rob Summers on-air before a segment about The Big Idea in 2014, the two kept in touch.

"I was attracted to him and his confidence," said Grauert.
"A confidence he gained when the Reeve Foundation changed his life."

Injured in 2006 by a hit and run, Summers was the first person to have an epidural stimulator implanted on his lower spinal cord as part of the Reeve Foundation's groundbreaking investment into the initial epidural stimulation study. As a result, Summers was able to stand, move his legs and even experienced unexpected improvements in temperature regulation, bowel and bladder control, and sexual function.

"What the Reeve Foundation is doing is unprecedented and compassionate," said Grauert. "Their dedication to science and the curiosity to try new ideas changes lives. Whatever comes next, the opportunity is there because of the Reeve Foundation"

Now an unstoppable force, Grauert and Summers joined Team Reeve in 2017 to participate in the 2017 TCS New York City Marathon. Together they inspired support from almost 250 people and raised more than \$30,000.

"The marathon was profound and magical, one of the best days of our lives," said Grauert. "I ran with and for my hero in the city where we fell in love. Rob is proof that with the Reeve Foundation, anything is possible."

RESOURCE MAP

LOCATE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT WITH ONLINE REEVE RESOURCE MAP

With access to information and resources as a top priority, the Reeve Foundation website features a "Resources in Your Area" interactive map that allows people to search for local organizations that share our mission or have received a Quality of Life grant. Simply enter your zip code into the search box, and a list of nearby organizations will appear. Search the list by organization type or location on the interactive map.

Visit ChristopherReeve.org/map

RESOURCES BY STATE



1-20



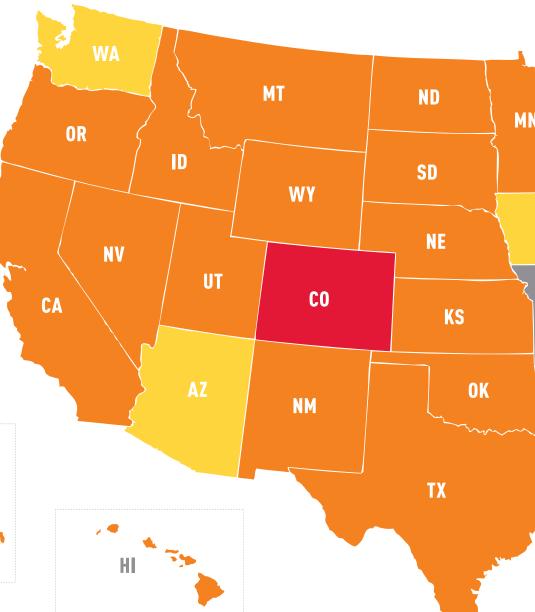


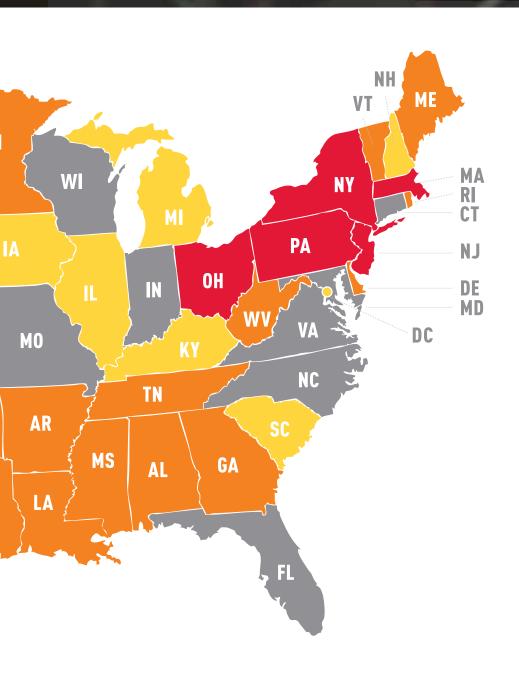
41-60



61–150







OVER 3,000 QUALITY OF LIFE GRANTS AWARDED IN 30 CATEGORIES SINCE 1999 INCLUDING:

Assistive Technology Initiative	127
Accessibility	41
Accessible Playground/Ball Field	67
Adaptive Sports (and Sports & Rec)	577
Advocacy Initiative	69
Arts Program	138
Camp	95
Caregiving and Respite	92
Children	67
Consumer Education	78
Counseling	14
Durable Medical Equipment	77
Education Program	70
Employment Program	55
Facility Accessibility Modifications	91
Fitness and Wellness	143
Healthcare	98
Home Accessibility Modifications	24
Independent Living	44
Media Development	18
Medical Professional	26
Other	23
Peer Mentoring and Support	82
Physical/Occupational Therapy	81
Practical Services	91
Service Animal Program	41
Therapeutic Horseback Riding	102
Accessible Trail	6
Transition from Institution to Home	30
Transportation	33



TEAM LEGRAND REACHES \$1 MILLION GOAL

True to his relentlessly optimistic nature, Eric LeGrand surpassed his to-date fundraising goal for Team LeGrand to reach the \$1 million mark in 2017. The event that ushered Team LeGrand over the milestone was the 5th annual **An Evening with Eric LeGrand**, hosted by business partners Ron Garutti Jr. and Jason Newcomb of Newroads Financial Group. With a record turnout of 130 attendees, the event raised more than \$40,000.



Many current and former Rutgers football players were among the more than 1,200 participants in the Seventh annual **A Walk to Believe** at Rutgers University's High Point Solutions Stadium. 2017's 5K walk, run and roll surpassed Eric LeGrand's six-figure goal to raise \$120,000 for Team LeGrand.

To join Team LeGrand, visit TeamLeGrand.org

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



In March, **World Wresting Entertainment (WWE)** presented Eric LeGrand with the third annual Warrior Award. Named in honor of WWE Hall of Famer The Ultimate Warrior, the award was given to LeGrand by The Ultimate Warrior's widow, Dana Warrior, at the 2017 WWE Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Orlando, FL.

WWE Executive Vice President Paul Levesque told ESPN, "The Warrior Award is reserved for someone who lives life with courage and compassion, and Eric is more than deserving. He is a great example for us all. When you talk to Eric and when you're around him, it's really hard not to be blown away by his positivity and his demeanor as a human being; it's just inspiring."

LeGrand was also recognized at WrestleMania in April, and the WWE made a \$25,000 donation to Team LeGrand.

A longtime wrestling fan, LeGrand told ESPN, "WrestleMania is one of the biggest events in the world, and to have my name attached to it and be a part of it as a small kid from Avenel, New Jersey, is a true blessing and a true honor. It just shows you if you do right in the world, good things do happen to you."

A MAGICAL EVENING

MORE THAN \$1.4 MILLION RAISED AT THE 2017 GALA



Once again, film and television actor Jerry O'Connell served as a charming and charismatic emcee for the 27th annual A Magical Evening. This year, more than 400 people came together to celebrate their connection to the Reeve Foundation's work at New York City's Conrad New York Hotel.



Singer-songwriter Joan Osborne certainly added to the evening's magic by performing three songs including "One of Us" and the Grateful Dead song "Ripple," which she dedicated to one of the night's honorees, Reeve Foundation Board Vice Chairman Henry G. Stifel, III.





Will Reeve thanked Kathy Bridgman and her family, Jennifer and Chris Bridgman, for their dedication to the paralysis community and presented them with the Christopher Reeve Spirit of Courage Award. When Chris sustained a spinal cord injury in a 2010 dirtbike accident, the family turned to the Reeve Foundation for information and guidance. In turn, the Bridgman family has worked tirelessly to raise funds and awareness for spinal cord injuries. When accepting the award, Jennifer said, "To be mentioned in the same sentence as Christopher Reeve is an incredible compliment. To receive an award bearing his name is an indescribable honor."

Garrett and Joan Fitzgerald toasted the spinal cord injured community and shared their amazing story. Injured while working as a secret service agent, Garrett spoke about the comfort, hope and recovery he gained as a Reeve Foundation NeuroRecovery Network® participant. He also thanked the audience, "It is your support, diligence and commitment to our community that makes life better and goals attainable."

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



One of **Samsung's** guiding principles is that technology can and should make the world a better place. From employee service days to ongoing support of charities, the company is certainly committed to that mission.

"From a citizenship perspective, it is important for Samsung to give back to foundations, like the Reeve Foundation," said Allison Verrino, senior manager in Samsung's Corporate Citizenship department. "It is part of our company's core values. We encourage our employees to get involved and give their time and expertise."

For the Reeve Foundation, Samsung's tremendous generosity has amounted to more than \$350,000 in monetary and technology donations over the past six and a half years. Much of that support has come through Samsung's annual charity gala. The company has also supported *A Magical Evening* as an event sponsor and, this year, the company hosted a virtual reality experience for attendees.

In addition to monetary and technology donations, dozens of Samsung employees have participated in Team LeGrand's A Walk to Believe and many more have joined Team Reeve® to run the TCS New York City Marathon.

"We are so honored and grateful to have wonderful partners like Samsung to help us move our important mission forward," said Peter Wilderotter, Reeve Foundation President and CEO. "Their dedication to helping the greater good is unparalleled."



Henry G. Stifel, III

Vice Chairman of the Reeve Foundation Board of Directors, John McConnell, presented the **Arnold H. Snider Visionary Leadership Award** to Henry G. Stifel, III, whose family created the Stifel Paralysis Research Foundation more than 35 years ago and helped pave the way for the research breakthroughs we are seeing today. "Since 1982, Henry has been on the frontlines of our mission to care for those living with paralysis today while pursuing the cures of tomorrow," said McConnell. "And it is because of Henry and the Stifel family that a world of empty wheelchairs is no longer an impossible dream, but our inevitable future."



Award-winning actress Glenn Close spoke about her first connection to Christopher Reeve through Robin Williams when they were shooting *The World According to Garp.* "Chris had more moral and mental fortitude than anyone I will ever know," said Close. "He had a brilliant brain, but his heart is what made him so fearless. He must have looked into the abyss many times, but his heart brought him back to the light and to hope. Hope for his dream that is now our dream, a world of empty wheelchairs."



Pioneering Big Idea participant Rob Summers closed out the evening's presentations with a moving reminder of the tremendous potential for implanted epidural stimulation and an appeal to the audience for their continued support in making this life-changing treatment available to everyone with a spinal cord injury.

SAVE THE DATE

28th annual A Magical Evening Thursday, November 15, 2018 Sheraton New York Times Square

SPECIAL EVENTS

TURNING PASSIONS AND TALENTS INTO AWARENESS AND SUPPORT



On November 16, just hours before the annual A Magical Evening gala event in New York City, a collection of Reeve Foundation staff, friends and supporters gathered at the NASDAQ's Times Square headquarters to ring the closing bell in honor of the 5.4 million Americans living with paralysis. Leading up to the 4 p.m. bell, Board Member Will Reeve spoke briefly about the Reeve Foundation's incredible work and thanked the many supporters who have helped move the mission forward. The event was broadcast live on the big screen in Times Square.





Once again, thousands gathered for the third annual Mikey Strong Charity Hockey Game in honor of Mike Nichols, who fractured his C-5 vertebrae in a 2014 high school hockey game. Sponsored by New York's WFAN station, the all-star game featured more than a dozen former NHL players including ex-Rangers Tom Laidlaw, Tie Domi and Brad Richards, former Islanders goalie Rick DiPietro, and Devils greats Ken Daneyko and Patrick Elias. For 2017, due to overwhelming community support in past years, the April game was moved to the Prudential Center, home of the New Jersey Devils. The event raised more than \$100,000 for the Nichols Family Trust and the Reeve Foundation. Before the game, Nichols told CBS News, "I'm going play hockey again. There's no question about it. That ice that I couldn't get back up from that day, I'm going back to it and I'm going to stand up on it."

To learn more, visit ChristopherReeve.org/events

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Comfort and hope have certainly been known to show up in the most unexcepted places. For the Bloom family, the harbinger literally fell out of a tree.

Soon after **Sam Bloom** returned home to Sydney, Australia, from the hospital after sustaining a spinal cord injury in a tragic accident in Thailand, her son brought home an injured magpie chick that fell from its nest. Sam, an avid adventurer who was struggling to adjust to her new life, found purpose in caring for the tiny creature which the family named **Penguin.**

"When I was caring for Penguin I would forget about my own problems. When Penguin got stronger it inspired me to get stronger," said Sam. "I would not be who I am today if it wasn't for that crazy little fluffball."

Cameron, Sam's husband and a professional photographer, documented the unique relationship and posted the stunning photos on Instagram. Hundreds of thousands of people fell in love with the fun-loving baby bird and its empowering message of hope.

With encouragement from Penguin's fans, Cameron reached out to friend and New York Times bestselling author Bradley Trevor Greive to write Penguin the Magpie and share their story. The book became an instant bestseller in Australia, and topped the charts in the U.K., Japan, and Germany.

Ten percent of the royalties from the book's U.S. sales will be donated to the Reeve Foundation. The contribution is also being matched by the book's North American publisher, Atria Books/Simon & Schuster. Two-time-Academy-Award-nominee, Naomi Watts, has signed on to play the role Sam Bloom in a major Hollywood movie adaptation produced by Reese Witherspoon.

"We feel honored to partner with the Reeve Foundation, a respected global leader in the search for a cure to spinal cord injury," said Cameron. "My sons and I would give anything for Sam to be able to stand on her own feet again - it means the world to us that the Reeve Foundation is so passionately committed to helping my wife, and millions of other young men and women currently confined to wheelchairs, to regain their independence."



In July, the First annual **Reeve Foundation Golf Classic** was held at the Navesink Country
Club in Middletown, NJ. More than 70 golfers enjoyed golf and a barbecue lunch followed by a silent auction and dinner program featuring Eric LeGrand as the keynote speaker.

WANT TO HELP? START YOUR OWN REEVE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER.

Here are some tips:

- Have fun with it Pick something you like to do. The possibilities are endless.
- **Know your limits** No fundraiser is too small, and every dollar counts.
- Make it educational Be sure to share information about the Reeve Foundation's work.
- Ask for help Fundraising is more fun with friends... get them involved too.

DONOR LIST

We are deeply grateful for the vital support of all Reeve Foundation donors and are pleased to recognize here the many generous contributors whose cumulative giving in 2017 totaled \$1,000 or more. Please accept our apology in advance for any inadvertent errors or omissions, and please contact us with any corrections for future listings at (973) 379-2690. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission and community members.

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"THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO UNCOVER, TO LEARN AND DISCOVER. AND SO, WE MUST NEVER REST, NEVER FALTER, AND NEVER TAKE A BREAK BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE COUNTING ON US TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES."

—ROB SUMMERS

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SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Endearingly remembered as an active and civicminded leader in his community, **Jules L. Plangere Jr.** left behind an enduring legacy of generosity and kindness when he passed away in 2016.

Plangere's remarkable professional journey started when he returned to New Jersey in 1947 after serving as an Army anti-aircraft artillery officer in the South Pacific. He was hired as a management trainee at the Asbury Park Press and spent the next 50 years rising through the ranks to become the publisher and co-owner of the newspaper. In his later years, Plangere was a senior partner of Press Communications LLC, a multimedia company that owns several central New Jersey radio stations.

Throughout his life, he was known for his many acts of personal and professional kindness. In his retirement, Plangere and his wife, Jane, established the Jules L. Plangere Jr. Family Foundation, which supports a host of causes and charities, including the Reeve Foundation.

Plangere's ongoing commitment to The Reeve Foundation began with his generous support of the Big Idea and has continued through his foundation's support of the Asbury Park Accessibility Initiative. A unique collaboration with the City of Asbury Park, this bold, multi-dimensional campaign is designed to make Asbury Park a model of accessibility that would serve as a future guide for other cities and municipalities to follow.

FINANCIALS

	DECEMBER 31,			
		2017		2016
ASSETS				
Cash and equivalents				
Unrestricted	\$	1,299,786	\$	592,711
Restricted		234,886		992,371
Investments		145,460		144,061
Equity Investment		965,330		984,051
Grants receivable		1,962,617		2,381,334
Contributions receivable, net		1,678,075		2,207,876
Split-interest agreement		4,591		18,992
Prepaid expenses		100,019		88,346
Security deposits and other		20,495		20,495
Intangible assets, net		91,863		120,123
Fixed assets, net		40,921		55,345
Total Assets	\$	6,544,043	\$	7,605,705
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$	147,918	\$	268,077
Accrued expenses		169,887		272,938
Quality of Life and other grants payable		371,307		721,425
Deferred revenue		433,618		287,970
Research contracts payable		2,406,069		1,589,550
Total Liabilities		3,528,799		3,139,960
Net Assets				
Unrestricted		1,494,210		1,571,111
Temporarily restricted		1,521,034		2,894,634
Total Net Assets		3,015,244		4,465,745
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	6,544,043	\$	7,605,705

All figures are based on our 2017 and 2016 financial statements and independent auditor's report by Wiss & Company, LLP. To view a copy of this report and our IRS Form 990, visit our website at ChristopherReeve.org. Christopher Reeve Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, established in 1988. Federal ID Number 22-2939536.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS— YEAR END DECEMBER 31

	Unrestricted	2017 Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	2016 Temporarily Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUES						
Contributions	\$ 3,498,616	\$ 441,745	\$3,940,361	\$ 4,001,533	\$638,672	\$4,640,205
Grant revenue	8,149,586	_	8,149,586	7,674,496	-	7,674,496
Special events	2,073,078	_	2,073,078	1,721,403	_	1,721,403
Contributed services	-	_	_	95,298	_	95,298
Investment loss	(8,158)	_	(8,158)	(4,758)	-	(4,758)
Net unrealized/realized gain (loss)						
on investments	(1,467)	_	(1,467)	121,764	-	121,764
Net assets released from restrictions	1,815,345	(1,815,345)	_	844,123	(844,123)	_
Total support and revenues	\$ 15,527,000	(1,373,600)	\$14,153,400	\$ 14,453,859	\$ (205,451)	\$ 14,248,408
EXPENSES						
Program services						
Research program	5,818,688	_	5,818,688	5,416,163	_	5,416,163
Public education	847,487	_	847,487	881,126	_	881,126
Quality of life	6,313,486	_	6,313,486	5,572,602	_	5,572,602
	12,979,661	_	12,979,661	11,869,891	-	11,869,891
Supporting services						
Management and general	825,965	_	825,965	1,309,973	-	1,309,973
Fundraising	1,798,275	_	1,798,275	1,527,050	-	1,527,050
	2,624,240	_	2,624,240	2,837,023	-	2,837,023
Total expenses	15,603,901	_	15,603,901	14,706,914	-	14,706,914
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(76,901)	(1,373,600)	(1,450,501)	(253,055)	(205,451)	(458,506)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,571,111	2,894,634	4,465,745	1,824,166	3,100,085	4,924,251
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 1,494,210	\$ 1,521,034	\$3,015,244	\$ 1,571,111	\$ 2,894,634	\$ 4,465,745

All figures are based on our 2017 and 2016 financial statements and independent auditor's report by Wiss & Company, LLP. To view a copy of this report and our IRS Form 990, visit our website at ChristopherReeve.org. Christopher Reeve Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, established in 1988. Federal ID Number 22-2939536.

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