

**NTAF****The Leader in Fundraising Assistance and Support
for Transplant and Catastrophic Injury**

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The Financial Link to Recovery

NTAF works to **increase access to health care** and to **promote independence** for individuals living with catastrophic injury (spinal cord and/or traumatic brain). NTAF began to serve individuals living with catastrophic injury in 2000 -- at the request of patients-- as a special program of National Transplant Assistance Fund (NTAF) when it was discovered that there was no organization providing fundraising guidance and support to this patient population. NTAF helps catastrophic injury patients raise money for uninsured medical expenses, such as: home health care, continued rehabilitation therapy, home modifications and accessible transportation.

The NTAF Catastrophic Injury (CI) Program:

- **Helps families and communities raise funds** for medical expenses of CI patients by providing fundraising guidance, including network identification, custom appeal letters and event planning;
- Provides **expertise, information and education** about spinal cord injury;
- Raises awareness about the costs – social, medical and financial – of spinal cord injury.

Highlights

Now in just its tenth year (Fiscal Year 2009), the NTAF CI Program has:

- Helped CI patients **raise more than \$13.6 million for uninsured medical expenses**;
- **Responded to 756 requests** for help with personalized patient information, almost half of them in the last two years alone.

The growth of the CI Program has been spectacular:

- Dramatic escalation in the number of CI campaigns initiated year to year: From just three NTAF CI campaigns initiated in FY 2000 to nearly 90 in FY 2009.
- In the last three years alone, the CI Program has helped families raise nearly \$8.8 million dollars to cover patients' medical expenses.

The Need

- Approximately 12,000 individuals sustain spinal cord injuries (SCI) yearly.
- Average yearly expenses can range from \$228,566 to \$775,567 in the first year; varies by the level of injury.
- Estimated lifetime costs due to spinal cord injury can range from \$681,843 to more than \$3 million for a 25 year old.

Source: Christopher & Dana Reeve Fdn.

Impact

In FY 2009:

- 11 vans were purchased for patients (\$244,476);
- 26 vans were modified to make them wheelchair accessible for patients (\$20,122);
- 46 home modifications were made to provide accessibility for patients (\$220,288);
- 27 patients were able to pay for in-home health care (\$489,894); and
- \$210,400 was disbursed to pay for patients' rehabilitation therapy at Project Walk.

NTAF is the only organization nationwide helping CI patients with community-based fundraising. Funds raised through NTAF enlarge CI patients' options for care and quality of life: experimental therapies, continued exercised-based rehabilitation, innovative equipment and assistive technology.

To learn more about NTAF and our services for patients, visit: www.NTAFund.org or call **1.800.642.8399**.