



NTAF Catastrophic Injury Fund

A special program of National Transplant Assistance Fund

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Financial Link to Recovery

The **NTAF Catastrophic Injury (CI) Program** works to increase access to health care and to promote independence for individuals living with catastrophic injury. The program was started in 2000 – at the request of patients – as a special program of the National Transplant Assistance Fund (NTAF) when it was discovered that there was no organization providing fundraising guidance and support to catastrophic injury patients. NTAF helps these patients raise money for uninsured medical expenses such as home health care, continued rehabilitation therapy, home modifications and accessible transportation.

Founded in 1983 by medical professionals Dr. Jack and Patricia Kolff, long-time residents of Villanova, **NTAF** exists to improve the health of transplant patients and victims of catastrophic injury by mobilizing communities to raise funds for patients’ uninsured medical expenses through ongoing fundraising guidance and support, education, information and administration. The NTAF 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 (FY 2009), the NTAF CI Program has:

- Helped CI patients raise **over \$10.2 million for uninsured medical expenses**
- Responded to 729 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: FY 2006: 47, FY 2007: 71, FY 2008: 96! The number of campaigns initiated per year has doubled in the last two years.
- In the last three years alone, the CI Program has helped families raise over \$7.5 million dollars to cover patient medical expenses.
- In the last two years alone, the amount raised for CI patients has increased by almost 30%, from \$2.1million in FY 2006 to \$2.7 million in FY2008.

The Need

- 11,000 individuals sustain spinal cord injuries (SCI) yearly (*Source: Magee Rehabilitation Hospital*)
- an estimated 48 *percent* of those injured lack private insurance at the time of injury (*Christopher & Dana Reeve Fdn.*)

Impact

In FY 2007, funds raised through NTAF paid for:

10 vans	\$282,411.97	Tuition at Project Walk	\$828,833.33
Home care	\$299,612.64	Home modifications to provide accessibility (30 individuals)	\$271,731.47

- NTAF is the only organization nationwide helping CI patients with community-based fund-raising.
- 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.