A Remarkable Landing

Back in 2011, Chris says she was living the dream. She was married, had a beautiful home in Canterbury, had two dogs. She worked as a full time waitress at The Common Man and sang with SongWeavers. But all of that went away when Chris fell off her porch and broke her back requiring her to use a wheelchair for mobility.

We Were There

But, she says, “I landed.” She means it figuratively, but she has indeed created a new life for herself. GSIL helped. Because of your support, we were able to fit her with a shower bench and a recumbent bike, and pay for some driver training. But it was the peer aspect of the program that she found most helpful.

A mentor made all the difference – he showed her how to adapt, and boy did she ever. It took her only three months to find an accessible apartment in Manchester and sign a lease. Though the dogs could not come with her, she has adopted a kitty named Freeda who “keeps me smiling with her cuteness, and lifts me out of the doldrums sometimes with her desire to play. She’s great!”

And speaking of playing – Chris continues to enjoy playing classical guitar and singing. Her family is scattered all over the country – she spent Thanksgiving in Orlando and looks forward to visits in Washington State, Louisiana and Minnesota.

Continued on Page 4
THEO VOUGIAS

A Manchester native, I live there with my wife and children. I joined the law firm of Devine, Millimet & Branch in Manchester two years ago as part of the Trusts and Estates Practice Group. Prior to joining Devine, I worked for a couple of small law firms in Massachusetts for approximately 10 years. I focus my practice on general estate planning and trust and estate administration. I especially enjoy assisting elders achieve peace of mind by helping them get their legal affairs in order.

Outside of work, I enjoy my children’s extra-curricular activities, including band, baseball, hockey, and basketball. I am a lifelong member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Manchester, where I enjoy serving on the board and helping out with the annual Glendi festival. The Glendi is our biggest fundraiser and it showcases Greek culture and cuisine.

As the father of a daughter with epilepsy, I have a passion for helping folks with disabilities live as independently as possible, which eventually led me to becoming a board member at GSIL. Although I have only been a board member at GSIL for a short time, my experience so far has been eye opening - I am astounded at the difficulty individuals with disabilities have with respect to coordinating their own personal care needs. I look forward to working with our dedicated board members and the staff at GSIL.
What can be said about a day on the links, in perfect weather, that supports folks with spinal cord injuries? Only one word – perfection!

Now in its third year, GSIL’s Chipping In FORE! Independence Tournament raised over $13,000 this year, and in total has brought in over $34,000. See the article on Page 1 for one example of the kind of work these funds support.

A Golfer’s Paradise

Lake Sunapee Country Club is a wonderful place to hold an event. The location itself is absolutely B-E-A-UTIFUL, the course is challenging and fun and the food is scrumptious. But the only way to experience it, if you’re not a member, is to participate in a tournament. Why not this tournament?

Thank YOU

As always, any success involves the efforts of many – special thanks to CGI for your very generous Eagle Sponsorship, and to all golfers and sponsors for your generosity, friendliness, great spirit and smiling faces.

In particular we are grateful to our Birdie and Contest Sponsors Anagnost Companies, Andrew Eills Law Firm, Associated Grocers of New England, Melanson Heath, Merrimack County Savings Bank, Mobility Works, New England Copy Services, NFP Financial Services, NH Healthy Families, Northeast Delta Dental, PiF Technologies and Well Sense Health Plan. As always, we could not have done it without you!
Because of You (continued from Page 1)

Your support makes our peer mentoring program happen. This not only means the one-on-one relationships you help us to offer, but peer events (like hiking and beach trips), holiday parties and more. These are the things Chris values most about having GSIL in her life.

Chris has gone back to work now as a part time administrative assistant, and hopes to be even more active outside trying new things like kayaking and snow skiing. And maybe return to sing again with The Song Weavers.

Her mantra? “I roll with the punches.” Pun intended.

Mark Your Calendars, Mark Your Budget!

We are excited to announce that our 4th Annual Chipping In FORE! Independence charity golf tournament will be held on September 28, 2017. We’ll see you there!

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