You Make Us Stronger

Your gift helped Dan transform his mind and body. Having lost his mental and physical strength after suffering a spinal cord injury, today Dan is training to hand-cycle the Boston Marathon.

It was a beautiful Memorial Day in 2012 that Dan spent sharing his dirt biking passion with his girlfriend and her son. While waiting for them to catch up along the trail, Dan saw an opportunity to go “all out” in an approaching sand pit. In an instant, he fell into an unseen hole measuring 6-feet deep. As his 250 pound dirt bike landed on top of him, Dan’s spine was crushed and his life was forever changed.

As Dan began his long journey to recovery, your support of GSIL allowed him to connect very early on with the peer mentor program. Dan first met with a peer mentor during his initial hospital stay and continued meeting with a peer whom encouraged him throughout his days at the rehab facility.

“I wasn’t really into it,” says Dan. “Jennifer [peer] would always come by my room and drag me out to hangout, talk and do some exercises.”

(continued on page 3)
Welcome

Inside this issue, you will find stories highlighting just how your generous gifts have helped others build strength and reconnect with family and friends. You've helped transform lives.

Thank you for choosing to support GSIL’s mission of life with independence.

With sincerest gratitude,

Clyde E. Terry
Chief Executive Officer

NH Give Day 2018

You rock! Thank you for supporting GSIL on NH Gives Day 2018.

The online event took place on June 6, 2018 and generated over $427,000 in funds raised for 257 NH organizations from almost 4,000 donors.

The support of our friends on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram helped us surpass our goal by 61% for a total of $3,220 raised in just 24 hours!

Thanks to you, GSIL was ranked in NH’s “Top 50 for Most Donors” and the “Top 100 for Most Money Raised”!

Follow us on social media to always stay connected.

Ready to Chip In FORE! Independence?

Get ready for GSIL’s 5th annual charity golf tournament, hosted at Canterbury Woods Country Club! On Thursday, September 13th, community friends and business leaders will drive for independence.

This year’s event will feature two brand new ways to test your skills! Walk away with a 1 carat diamond and a $1,000 shopping spree by winning our Hole In One contest, courtesy of Capitol Craftsman, The Viking House and Hilltop Consignment Gallery. Risk double or nothing on our designated Vegas Hole by landing your ball a pin-length from the hole.

Win other prizes and unique experiences in our Silent Auction, including: 4 Premium Club Seats for the Boston Bruins, 2 Black Level Vouchers for the Manchester Monarchs, various gift certificates, baskets and more.

We are also excited to welcome Victoria Arlen, international TV personality, to the course! Players will have an exclusive photo opp and the chance to win a signed copy of her newly released book, “Locked In”.

For more event details, visit www.gsil.org/golf.
After months of rehab, Dan was able to move back to his rural home. “I learned quickly after I got home how difficult things were going to be.” Dan saw right away the new challenges he faced to be able to live independently at home. For one, he couldn’t even get into the house because of the front and back steps.

*Again, you saved the day.* Your gift to GSIL allowed Dan to receive the modifications needed to make his home accessible, including a stair glide for access to his basement and a larger bathroom.

Dan lived alone in his home with no vehicle to get out of the house for two years. “I found out pretty quickly that my friends weren’t my friends, because they’re gone.” It was during this time he gained 60–70 pounds as he remained isolated from his community. Knowing he needed a change, he moved to Manchester. That’s when his peer mentor, Doug, began bringing him to the Goffstown YMCA.

“Sometimes I just would not even want to get up, but Doug wasn’t going to let that happen, thank God.” It was Doug who got Dan into hand-cycling, helping him to lose the weight and prompting him to set his goal to race in the Boston Marathon in 2020.

Wanting more independence, Dan was able to find and purchase “the ugliest wheelchair van you ever saw,” as he called it. “But it got me where I needed to go and gave me back some independence.” During these early days of driving, Dan would park far away and wait for the parking lot to clear before transferring out of the vehicle just to avoid embarrassment.

Along the way, Dan has learned to advocate for himself and others. “I still get a little bashful and it might take me a while before I speak up, but I’m getting better at that.” Notably, Dan is now not only proud to be driving a newer, sleeker vehicle, but is also willing stop to speak and answer questions when someone is interested in how he drives and transfers alone. “I feel it’s important that people are aware of people with disabilities and their capabilities.”

Dan continues to “pay it forward” by serving as a peer mentor himself to folks with new injuries and sits on the Advisory Council of the NH branch of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association. Your support to GSIL has shown him he cannot only survive, but thrive.

“Without GSIL, I’d be in pretty rough shape. I wouldn’t have met the great people at GSIL and wouldn’t have had all the programs that helped pull me out and get me to where I am now.”
Independence Supported Through Hoops on Wheels 2018

Your generous support of our annual Hoops on Wheels wheelchair basketball tournament directly helped our consumers, in wheelchairs and out, to have a better quality of life.

“It’s hard,” said Paul Provost, President of MillRiver Wealth Management. “Just when you think you’re going to make a basket, you realize how hard it is to be in a wheelchair.”

Hoops on Wheels is a unique way to involve both our consumers and our supporters in raising funds to support the critical programs offered by GSIL. Your support and participation make this event a success.

“The whole idea of inclusion is very, very important,” said Julie Lineberger of Wheelpad, LLC. “When people in wheelchairs get to play and exercise, and when people who don’t use wheelchairs in their everyday life get a little taste of what it’s like... I think it’s fantastic.”

GSIL’s Hoops on Wheels began in 2011, and with your support, continues to grow as a signature event bringing awareness of people with disabilities, attracting local and state government officials, and providing crucial funding in support of our services.

“It’s an honor to be here to support GSIL and all the wonderful work they do in the community to help build inclusive lives for people with disabilities,” said Dan Feltes, NH State Senator.

Thank you to the 16 teams, 115 individuals, 15+ volunteers, and all those who gave in support of this event. You helped us raise over $26,000 – money that directly helped improve the quality of life for our consumers.

*Crotch Mountain School (CMS) team receives the Hoops on Wheels 2018 Championship Trophy.*
Keeping Connected

Living alone in a rural area of NH can be lonely. For Andrew, a man in his early fifties living with a spinal cord injury, it can be downright isolating. Andrew’s family and friends are spread across the country. His injury leaves him unable to drive and he requires a wheelchair van for transportation.

But thanks to you, Andrew has the support of GSIL to help him with his daily living tasks. He also has his service coordinator, who is only a phone call away if a need arises. And it did.

Like many of us, Andrew used his laptop daily to communicate with family and friends far away, as well as to shop for needed items and supplies. Then his laptop broke. Andrew had no money to purchase a new one and felt hopeless as he called his service coordinator seeking help.

Service coordinators play a critical role in the lives of our consumers... and it is your funding to GSIL that supports this valuable program. Andrew’s coordinator found a grant opportunity, contacted the agency and helped Andrew complete the application. Since Andrew was without both transportation and internet access, his service coordinator helped determine what he was looking for and picked out a laptop from Staples to suit his needs. A few months later, Andrew received a brand new laptop.

When his original laptop broke, he felt devastated, isolated and unable to communicate with family and friends. Thanks to your support, Andrew is back in touch and has the independence to once again do his own shopping.

Funding Highlights

Thank you to the following Walmarts for their Community Grant Support:

• Sam’s Club - Concord - $500
• Distribution Center - Raymond - $1,000
• Walmart - Somersworth - $500
• Walmart - Concord - $500
• Walmart - Portsmouth - $2,000

Many thanks to our foundation and corporate friends for their recent support:

• Queen City Rotary - $1500 for Earn & Learn students to purchase an interview outfit.
• Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation - $20,000 for IMPACCT.
• St. Mary’s Bank - $5,000 to bring “It’s a Money Thing” program to teach IMPACCT students financial and economic self-sufficiency skills.
• NHCF - $25,000 for Financial Planning for Employment and Benefits Services for Mental Health centers.
• NHCF - $10,500 to support home and environmental modifications.
• Employees of Associated Grocers of NE - $3,000 in operating support.
• Northeast Delta Dental - $2,000 in support of GSIL events.
• USI New England - $1,200 in support of GSIL events.
• Granite State Poker Alliance - $13,232 from gaming at Lebanon Poker Room.

Special thanks to the following businesses for their new support!

• AAA Energy Services Company
• Betterforms & Printed Products
• Garry’s Service Center
• Irwin Automotive Group
• Mather Associates
• NH Print & Mail
Honoring a Loved One

With your help, GSIL provides critical services to people with disabilities and seniors, in many cases, ongoing for the remainder of their lives. We are honored and privileged to become our consumers’ friends and are dedicated to providing services and programs that enhance the quality of their lives.

Our true homage comes when an individual and/or their family chooses to select Granite State Independent Living as a recipient of donations in lieu of flowers when it’s time to pay tribute at the end of life. This is a true testament that they value the services we provide and know the importance of sustaining GSIL, whether they were a consumer of GSIL or not.

When our family lost our father Donald DeMayo this year, he chose in lieu of flowers to have memorial donations be made to Granite State Independent Living.

Our father knew the wonderful programs and services they offer because he had two (2) daughters with disabilities. He saw firsthand how their confidence and independence flourished and grew because of their involvement with GSIL.

Realizing the important work they do for the community, and how it impacts many lives, was a way for family and friends to honor his memory.

- The DeMayo Family

Thank you to our 2018 Golf Sponsors

EAGLE SPONSORS: CGI Employee Benefits Group • Mobility Works; BEVERAGE CART SPONSORS: Bob’s Discount Furniture • Pif Technologies; DRIVING RANGE SPONSORS: NH Healthy Families; BIRDIE SPONSOR: New England Copy Services; REGISTRATION TABLE SPONSORS: Capital City Sunrise Rotary; LUNCH SPONSORS: Melanson Heath • Well Sense; TEE SPONSORS: Annkissam • Citizens Bank • Duncraft Inc. • Edward Jones • Irwin Automotive • Merrimack County Savings Bank • Robat Holdings • S&W Roofing • Ultimate Software; HOLE IN ONE SPONSORS: Capital Craftsman • Viking House.

Get involved in this year’s tournament: www.gsil.org/golf.