



How NTAF Catastrophic Injury Program Can Help

Recovering from an acute spinal cord injury can be an overwhelming experience for patients and families – emotionally, physically and financially. In the course of this difficult journey, they can rely on the NTAF Catastrophic Injury Program.

NTAF is a recognized charitable organization that helps those facing traumatic spinal cord injury to establish fundraising campaigns in their honor.

Contributions to NTAF Catastrophic Injury Program patient campaigns are tax-deductible.

“You are not alone. Let us come alongside you to provide hope and guidance.”

Lynne Coughlin Samson
*NTAF Executive Director
Stepmother to a C-6 quadriplegic*



NTAF Catastrophic Injury Program

Our Mission

To help spinal cord injury patients afford critical but uninsured medical care through fundraising guidance, patient resources and support, as well as financial assistance.

Established in 1983 by medical professionals, NTAF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations to NTAF are tax-deductible.



The Catastrophic Injury Program was undertaken in the year 2000, when NTAF discovered that there was no organization helping SCI patients raise money for their overwhelming uninsured medical expenses.

NTAF is the only organization providing this service.

NTAF Catastrophic Injury Program

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800-642-8399

Visit us on the web:
www.catastrophicfund.org

*Serving the spinal cord injury
and transplant communities.*

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NTAF Catastrophic Injury Program

***Your Financial Link
to Recovery***



***Facts About Spinal Cord Injury
& How NTAF Can Help***

How Do We Help Raise Funds?

NTAF is the only organization of its kind in the United States that works with families to raise funds for uninsured medically related expenses associated with traumatic spinal cord injury.

NTAF works with families and volunteers to provide the framework to launch a fundraising campaign in their own communities.

- NTAF assists families in setting financial goals, establishing a volunteer network, writing appeal letters, designing flyers, planning events and approaching the local media, while offering constant support through a toll-free telephone line.
- NTAF provides step-by-step instructions to the volunteers in the patient's community with information about how to run fundraising events – from car washes to bowling tournaments to black tie dinner dances.
- A fundraising plan is personalized and tailored to each individual's family and network of friends.
- NTAF provides opportunities for corporate and foundation grants and matching gifts.



Call Us to Partner with You! 800-642-8399

How Are Funds Collected and Held?

NTAF is a national 501(c)(3) that collects funds in honor of patients, providing contributors with tax-deductibility and receipts.

Funds raised are sent to NTAF and held in honor of SCI patients in regional restricted funds.

Funds raised enable patients to obtain access to health care and assist with other hidden costs.

Funds may be disbursed upon application and demonstration of financial need.



How Does NTAF Pay Bills?

Once a fundraising campaign is established, a fund request form may be completed by the patient or approved guardian for reimbursement or direct payment of bills. Appropriate explanations must accompany all requests for assistance.

NTAF recognizes the need for prompt payment; therefore, checks are issued weekly.

Contributions collected in honor of a patient are available throughout the patient's life, or as long as there is money in the campaign to cover the patient's medically related expenses.

Visit our website: www.catastrophicfund.org

Financing Recovery from Spinal Cord Injury

Few patients are able to pay all medical expenses with insurance, government assistance and savings. Fundraising is a good solution for these lifelong financial challenges. Uninsured expenses may include:

- Specially equipped vans and durable medical equipment
- Home modification related to injury
- Home health care services
- Physical therapy and vocational rehabilitation
- Experimental treatments
- Travel expenses for rehabilitation and treatment
- Insurance premiums, deductibles and co-pays

The Costs of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

- Only 52% of SCI individuals are covered by insurance at the time of injury.
- Post injury hospitalization averages 15 days, costing \$140,000.
- Average rehabilitation stay is 36 days.
- Average first year expenses for a SCI injury (all groups): \$198,000.
- Average lifetime costs for paraplegics, age of injury 25: \$1,022,038.
- Average lifetime costs for quadriplegics, age of injury 25: \$2,394,469.
- 63% of SCI individuals are unemployed 8 years after injury.

Facts about Spinal Cord Injury

- Approximately 12,000 new spinal cord traumas occur in the U.S. each year.
- The most common cause of SCI is vehicular accidents, followed by falls, acts of violence and sports-related activities.
- 87.9% of all SCI individuals are discharged from hospitals to a private home; only 5.6% are discharged to nursing homes.

Source: The University of Alabama National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center, January 2008