

Be Perfect

PARALYSIS AWARENESS FOUNDATION

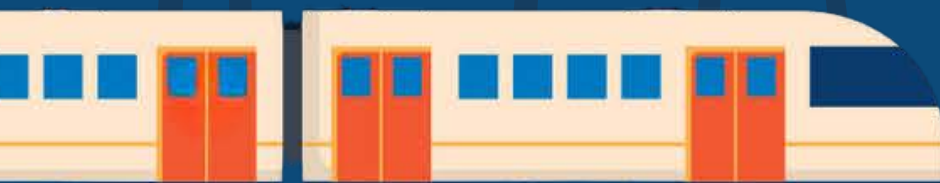


PLANES TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES

*Ten Events of Transformation.
One Unforgettable Journey.*

YOUR TICKET TO INSPIRATION AWAITS

Get ready to punch your ticket, climb aboard and take a ride into what it means to live limitless with paralysis amid accessibility challenges. Join us as we take a look at the past year, explore accessibility, and unveil how Be Perfect is making a difference for clients nationwide. Get ready to embark on this journey with us - your ticket to inspiration awaits!



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we step into another promising year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey, celebrate our triumphs, and look ahead to the exciting path that lies before us.

The past year has been nothing short of remarkable for our foundation. 2023 saw us reaching new heights in our mission to support individuals living with paralysis. From receiving over \$125,000 in donations to allocating nearly \$300,000 in scholarships, we have made significant strides in aiding those in need. The success of last year's event, BP 9.0, was a testament to our community's dedication and generosity. Together, we provided nearly 20 wheelchairs to clients, supported over 50 individuals in therapy programs nationwide, and successfully hosted a blood drive, contributing crucially to our local healthcare needs.

As we gear up for this year's event, BP 10.0, themed "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles," we stand at the cusp of a new chapter in our story. This theme resonates with our commitment to enhancing mobility and independence, and we are excited to bring together our community for another memorable and impactful gala. The funds raised will propel us further in our mission, enabling us to touch more lives and create lasting changes.

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, our trajectory fills me with immense hope and anticipation. We are not just building a foundation; we are nurturing a movement that champions accessibility, support, and empowerment.

Our key initiatives and program services are expanding, and our dream of establishing an endowment is closer

than ever. This endowment will ensure the sustainability of our efforts and deepen our impact, allowing us to reach even more individuals and communities. As we continue on this journey, I invite each one of you to be a part of this transformative movement.

Whether through your time, resources, or voice, your contribution makes a world of difference. Together, we can break barriers, build bridges, and create a world where everyone, regardless of their physical abilities, has the opportunity to live a fulfilling and empowered life.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our cause, and for being the driving force behind our success. Here's to a future filled with hope, growth, and continued success.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Hal Hargrave Jr.

Founder & Executive Director
of the Be Perfect Foundation





BE PERFECT FOUNDATION

take a look inside ↷

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Follow Us



TELLING OUR STORY



Empowering Lives: The Journey of the Be Perfect Foundation

In the heart of a community bound by shared challenges and triumphs, the Be Perfect Foundation emerges as a lighthouse of hope, support, and unwavering strength for those navigating the turbulent waters of paralysis. This remarkable organization, born from Hal Hargrave Jr.'s resilience in the face of adversity, has grown into more than just a non-profit; it's a vibrant community thriving on empathy, resilience, and the power of empowerment.



Photos from the scene of Hal Hargrave Jr.'s motor vehicle accident that left him a C5/6 quadriplegic in July of 2007

A Mission of Hope and Healing

At its core, the Be Perfect Foundation is dedicated to the noble mission of offering both financial and emotional lifelines to individuals and families grappling with the realities of paralysis. Recognizing the vast chasm left unfilled by medical insurance, the foundation steps in to ensure that essential therapies, adaptive equipment, and resources are within reach, fostering independence and enhancing the quality of life for those it serves.





A Symphony of Support

Achieving its mission through the generosity of donors, the excitement of fundraising events, and the strength of community partnerships, the Be Perfect Foundation provides:

- Scholarships for innovative exercise-based therapy programs
- Financial support for critical needs like wheelchairs, home and car modifications, medical supplies, and more
- Emotional support and guidance, creating a network of care for individuals and their families

A Focus on Wellness and Well-being

The foundation's services are a testament to the belief in exercise as a powerful medicine. Tailored therapy programs aim not just to maintain, but to improve health and mobility, addressing the physical and emotional wellness of those served.

Serving with Heart

The foundation's reach spans across LA County, Orange County, and the Inland Empire, touching lives across all ages and backgrounds. It's a commitment to inclusivity and support that knows no bounds.



A Vision for the Future

With an eye toward sustainability and growth, the foundation has set ambitious goals:

- Establishing an endowment to secure its mission for generations to come
- Expanding its capacity to serve through the endowment of key positions and the raising of significant funds at annual galas
- Aiming to consistently provide over \$750,000 a year in program services support

Impact That Speaks Volumes

Since its inception, the Be Perfect Foundation has raised over \$10 million, aiding more than 350 individuals in their recovery journeys, providing over 100 wheelchairs, and touching countless lives with stories of resilience, hope, and empowerment.

In a world often marred by challenges and uncertainty, the Be Perfect Foundation stands as a testament to the power of the human spirit and community. It's a story not just of overcoming, but of thriving; a reminder that together, we can **be perfect** in our imperfections.



HELPING HAL HEAL OTHERS





BP 2023

Generous Donations & Financial Support



\$125,000 in Donations: Our foundation received an overwhelming amount in donations, fueling our various initiatives.

20 Wheelchairs for Clients: Our efforts resulted in the procurement of nearly 20 wheelchairs, aiding mobility for clients in need.



Wheelchair Provision & Therapy Support

\$300,000 in Scholarships: We allocated substantial scholarships for medical-based needs, directly benefiting individuals requiring assistance.



Successful Collaborative Events



Support for 50+ Clients in therapy Programs: Extending our support nationwide, we aided over 50 clients in various therapy programs throughout the country.

Fundraising Successes



Ontario Reign Gala: In January, we held a successful gala alongside the Ontario Reign, raising over \$30,000. The event highlighted our strong partnership and corporate sponsorship with the Ontario Reign.



Community Health Initiatives

Giving Tuesday: On November 28th, we held a successful Giving Tuesday campaign, raising over \$25,000, furthering our mission & outreach.



Grand Reopening of TPS: As a cohost with our community partner, The Perfect Step, we celebrated their grand reopening. This event showcased their newly expanded facility to over 400 attendees.



Blood Drive: Our year-end blood drive successfully collected 30 units of blood, contributing significantly to medical needs and emergencies in our local community.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Meet Arthur Martinot



“Thank you to the donors for helping support our journey to a better, healthier, more fulfilling life.”

On July 19, 2022, Arthur Martinot was vacationing in Spain with his wife and friends, when a diving accident left him paralyzed from the chest down. His injury was diagnosed as a C6/C7 vertebra fracture, ASIA-B, incomplete. He has good use of his arms and shoulders but has no hand function and no movement in the legs. Arthur started his rehab in Spain and then transferred to Casa Colina in December of 2022. During a support group meeting with The Triumph Foundation, he found out about The Perfect Step. In February 2023, Arthur started going to The Perfect Step twice a week with the help of a scholarship from the Be Perfect Foundation. After a year and a half of near-constant intensive rehabilitation since his accident, Arthur has regained strength in his core, has seen improvement in his



breathing has seen improvement in his overall strength and stamina, and he continues to become more independent and better adapted to his new life. In addition to providing much-needed physical therapy, The Perfect Step has brought a sense of community, belonging, and guidance in the face of loss, confusion, and isolation. After such a catastrophic life event, to be able to look at life with hope, happiness, and a full heart would be difficult - if not impossible - without The Perfect Step and Be Perfect. He is eternally grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of this incredible organization and is grateful to the Be Perfect donors for making it a reality. Arthur wants to extend a big Thank You to the founders for bringing this place to life and keeping it running, a Thank You to the ever-attentive TPS staff for all of the care, knowledge, positivity, and humor they bring day in and day out, and Thank You to the Be Perfect donors for helping support his journey to a better, healthier, more fulfilling life.





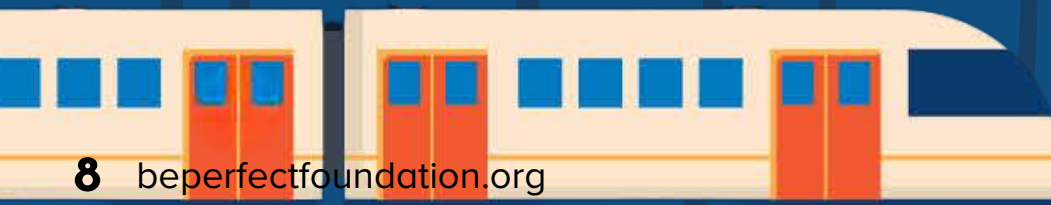
Be Perfect

PARALYSIS AWARENESS

Ten Events of Transformation.

The Be Perfect Foundation is thrilled to announce
"Planes, Trains, and..."

This year's celebration will not only commemorate almost two decades of unparalleled support and empowerment for individuals living with paralysis but also embrace the theme of adaptive transportation. Highlighting the diverse and innovative modes of transportation our clients navigate in their daily lives, the event promises an enlightening and inspiring exploration of the challenges and triumphs within the paralysis community. Our clients don't need great wheelchairs for a comfy place to sit but they need chairs, medical supplies, and tools to get them to their jobs, their school, their kid's baseball practice, to the side of their baby's crib, and even down the aisle as they promise their future to someone they love.





Be Perfect[®]
FOUNDATION



One Unforgettable Journey.

its 10th Annual Scholarship Gala Fundraiser,
and Automobiles"

Physical therapy, counseling, car adaptations, ramps - these things are not a luxury and are not covered by insurance but are necessities that will allow our Be Perfect recipients to be productive employees, spouses, parents, friends, and travelers. The biggest loss that comes with paralysis is not the ability to walk, but independence and autonomy. Your donations are offering the gift of independence. It is your generosity that propels our clients forward who roll through life. Thank you for being a part of this unforgettable journey and transforming the lives of those in the paralysis community for almost two decades!





Meet the Be Perfect 10.0 Guests of Honor



Taylor Lindsay-Noel

Introducing Taylor Lindsay-Noel, a remarkable individual hailing from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Taylor's life took a dramatic turn at the age of 14 when, in pursuit of an unprecedented gymnastics maneuver on the high bar, she suffered a catastrophic injury that left her a C4/C5 complete quadriplegic. Despite this adversity, Taylor has become a shining beacon of inspiration. She finds her passion in the art of storytelling through video editing, exploring the



culinary world through restaurant reviews, and engaging in profound conversations that delve into the complexities of human life and relationships. Notably, Taylor achieved a monumental milestone when her company, Cup of Té Luxury Loose Leaf Teas, was featured on Oprah's Favorite Things List in 2020. Founded and owned by Taylor, this business delivers luxury teas and accessories across North America while actively contributing to mental health awareness—an endeavor close to Taylor's heart. Beyond her entrepreneurial endeavors, Taylor's commitment to her community is unwavering. She serves as a board member for Spinal Cord Injury Ontario and the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Center, and her presence as a social media and TikTok influencer with over 110,000 followers allows her to advocate passionately for disability and accessibility awareness. Taylor's journey is a testament to her resilience, proving that individuals living with paralysis can thrive and make significant contributions to society. Additionally, she nurtures a dream of mastering the Spanish language, fueled by her love for Barcelona, where she hopes to one day own a vacation home. Taylor Lindsay-Noel is a beacon of strength and inspiration, exemplifying the limitless potential of the human spirit.





Ashley Hutton



Allow us to introduce Ashley Hutton, currently residing in Buffalo, New York. Ashley's journey through life has been marked by incredible resilience and profound experiences. In 1996, a life-altering car accident left her with paralysis, a challenge compounded by lapses in proper medical care and a limited understanding of spinal cord injuries at the time. Despite these obstacles, Ashley's spirit remains unbroken, and her passions are a testament to her indomitable will. She finds joy in reading, exploring new destinations,

teaching, rescuing dogs, savoring culinary delights at new restaurants, and the art of baking. Ashley's life story unfolds in two extraordinary chapters. First, her courageous move to Arizona for college, where she faced the daunting task of managing her physical well-being and academic success independently. Then, the heartwarming chapter of motherhood brought immeasurable joy despite the uncertainties surrounding pregnancy. Ashley is married to Jake, and their journey together is marked by love and



support. Their family includes two beloved rescue dogs, Zoey and Samson. Most recently, in July 2023, they welcomed their beautiful daughter, Hayden, into the world. As they prepare to transition to Texas, they look forward to a more inclusive community with accessible amenities and Hayden's elementary school within walking distance. Ashley's pursuit of a limitless life with paralysis involves challenging societal expectations and embracing the uniqueness of her journey. She embodies strength, positivity, and humility, recognizing that success takes various forms for each individual. Ashley's story is a testament to living with grace, determination, and an unwavering commitment to be the best mom and individual she can be, disability or not. Her inspiring journey serves as a beacon of hope for all who face life's challenges with resilience and grace.



Miguel Wong-Rivera

Introducing Miguel Angel Wong-Rivera Jr., a dynamic individual with a unique background and an inspiring journey. Residing in Norwalk, CA, for over 20 years, Miguel's life took a transformative turn in 2009 when he was diagnosed as a C-6 (incomplete) quadriplegic following a life-altering car accident. Initially faced with uncertainty and the challenge of relearning life, Miguel's resilience has led him to remarkable accomplishments and a passion for instilling hope in others. He thrives on learning and mentoring, dedicating his efforts to achieving his wildest dreams and sharing powerful testimonies through his podcast. One of his proudest achievements is regaining his independence to drive himself, a symbol of unwavering determination during his darkest times. Miguel's family, including his three brothers, parents, sisters-in-law, loving girlfriend, and three dogs, has been his rock throughout his journey. His nonprofit, Dream Big Project, founded during his undergraduate years, focuses on education, healthy youth development, and mental health support for underprivileged students and their families. Additionally, his family's venture, Moms Cocina, brings authentic Mexican cuisine, made with love and quality ingredients, to the world. Miguel is deeply engaged in his community, supporting local initiatives, collaborating with schools and organizations, and hosting a successful podcast that inspires individuals to pursue their passions and connect with others. Living limitlessly with paralysis means not letting it define him or hinder his pursuit of dreams and fulfillment. Miguel's journey showcases the power of mindset and resilience, proving that challenges can be overcome when one has no other choice but to move forward. His story serves as a reminder that we all have a unique purpose on this earth, and Miguel is living his to the fullest.





Jose Perales



Jose Perales is an inspiring figure whose story is one of resilience, determination, and passion. Born and raised in Anaheim, CA, Jose faced a life-altering challenge at the age of 15. On November 21, 2006, he underwent a complex 18-hour corrective surgery for scoliosis, performed by Dr. Clifford Douglas. This surgery, involving rod placement and spinal fusion in the lumbar region, was intended to correct a severe spinal curvature that had developed from a young age. Unfortunately, the procedure left Jose paraplegic, marking a profound turning point in his life.

From a young age, Jose battled chronic back pain, which was initially dismissed as a pinched nerve by doctors. It wasn't until he was 13 that a diagnosis of scoliosis was made, following the discovery of an abnormal bone growth bridging his pelvis and spine. Despite undergoing surgery to address this, the removal of the supportive bone mass and a cyst led to a rapid worsening of his condition, propelling him towards the critical surgery that would change his life.

Despite the challenges he has faced, Jose's spirit remains unbroken. He has several passions that keep his spirit alive and vibrant. Traveling the world to enjoy Electronic Dance Music (EDM) is one of his greatest joys, reflecting his belief in the power of music as a life-saving force. He is also deeply connected to his roots, with a passion for cooking traditional Mexican foods, especially those that honor his ancestral heritage. Additionally, Jose is dedicated to his work as a Spiritual Advisor and Ancestral Practitioner, guiding others through their spiritual journeys.

One of Jose's proudest achievements is his ongoing healing journey with The Perfect Step, where he has seen remarkable progress in regaining sensation and movement in his legs and feet, even 17 years post-injury. This testament to the body's ability to heal is a source of great pride and hope for him.

In a bold move to shape his future, Jose ventured into entrepreneurship two years ago, starting a business in High Ticket Affiliate Marketing. He partnered with Enagic, a Japanese company known for its medical-grade water machines, after experiencing significant health benefits from their products. Jose's vision extends beyond personal success; he aims to impact others' health on a global scale.

Jose's commitment to his community is unwavering. He dedicates his time to building relationships and supporting individuals dealing with spinal cord injuries, understanding the immense value of having someone to relate to during such challenging times. He facilitates "Life Series Events" at The Perfect Step, creating a welcoming space for all, regardless of their backgrounds or challenges.

Living with paralysis, Jose refuses to be defined by his condition. His life is a testament to living without limits, as he continually seeks new adventures and challenges. Whether traveling the globe, pushing himself physically, or advocating for others, Jose embodies the spirit of resilience and determination.





SO GRATEFUL FOR OUR MAIN EVENT SPONSORS



DIAMOND EXPRESS SPONSORS



Apex Imaging Services has been a cornerstone in the support structure of the Be Perfect Foundation since its establishment in 2007, providing not only substantial financial contributions but also a wealth of resources, manpower, and expertise, particularly in the remodeling of therapy facilities for those living with paralysis. Their engagement with the foundation and the paralysis community transcends monetary assistance, encompassing a broad spectrum of advocacy and support efforts that have been crucial in driving forward the foundation's mission.

In partnership with the Be Perfect Foundation and The Perfect Step, Apex Imaging Services has formed a triad of collaboration that has been instrumental in effecting meaningful change within the paralysis community over the past decade and a half. This alliance has been pivotal in enhancing the quality of life for many individuals, showcasing the power of combined efforts in the pursuit of a common goal.

CTC Resources, LLC serves as the successor to Claremont Tennis Club, Inc., which was known as The Claremont Club until its closure in 2020. The ownership remained consistent across both entities. CTC Resources, LLC considers itself extremely privileged to have played a part, in the inception of what has become The Perfect Step, by providing Hal Hargrave Jr. with space within The Claremont Club. This opportunity enabled Hal Hargrave Jr., in collaboration with then Club President and CEO Mike Alpert, to develop and expand The Perfect Step significantly over the years. The partnership with Hal Hargrave Jr. and The Perfect Step is something CTC Resources, LLC looks back on with gratitude. The vibrancy and passion that The Perfect Step introduced to the club were profoundly inspiring and warmly embraced during their tenure there. CTC Resources, LLC extends its congratulations to Hal Hargrave Jr. for his transformative work and eagerly anticipates the future advancements of The Perfect Step.

Oliver Olivares' journey from Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, to becoming a pivotal supporter of the Be Perfect Foundation is a testament to resilience and empathy. Facing his own family crisis when his father suffered a heart attack, Oliver learned early the value of community support. This experience shaped his path, leading him to the United States with dreams of aiding his family. Through hard work in the construction industry, Oliver not only uplifted his own family but also connected with the Hargrave family, whose story of overcoming paralysis mirrored his own struggles. Choosing to sponsor the Be Perfect Foundation was a natural step for Oliver, driven by shared values of resilience and the transformative power of community support. His contribution, met with heartfelt gratitude by Hal Jr., underscored the profound impact of empathy and solidarity. Oliver's story encourages others to support causes that foster hope and recovery, highlighting the significance of turning personal challenges into opportunities to help others.



PLATINUM JET SPONSORS

BRIGHT

BULBS ELECTRIC CO., INC

GENERAL & ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Bright Bulbs stands out as a dedicated supporter of the Be Perfect Foundation, aligning with the foundation's commitment to aiding those living with paralysis. This partnership is rooted in Bright Bulbs' core values of empathy, community, and impactful action, reflecting a deep understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with paralysis and their families.

Driven by a belief in the transformative power of support, Bright Bulbs is committed to enhancing the foundation's capabilities through financial aid and volunteerism, aiming to engage more deeply through organizing fundraising activities and lending expertise.

The company's support extends to advocating for increased public awareness around paralysis, aiming to inspire a broader community involvement. Bright Bulbs is particularly impressed by the foundation's comprehensive approach to recovery and rehabilitation, from advanced equipment to personalized therapy programs, and seeks to enhance the reach and effectiveness of these services. Their goal is to ensure that individuals living with paralysis have access to the resources needed for a fulfilling life, embodying their commitment to making a tangible difference in the community.

HAFIF

FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Hafif Foundation, guided by the Hafif family, has developed a deep, longstanding partnership with the Be Perfect Foundation and the Hargrave family, evident in their decade-long role as event sponsors. This collaboration has greatly shaped the foundation's direction. Their commitment goes beyond financial aid, with the Hafif family's early contribution of their home and amphitheater for events laying crucial groundwork for community involvement and fundraising. This, coupled with their legal expertise and understanding of paralysis-related challenges, aligns them closely with the Be Perfect Foundation's mission. The Hafif Foundation's focus on healthcare and education amplifies their impact, particularly through scholarships for those facing financial barriers to necessary services. The synergy between these organizations fosters a unique blend of advocacy, support, and direct aid, making a tangible difference in the lives of many. Looking ahead, they are dedicated to enhancing awareness and support, ensuring continued growth and support for those with paralysis, reinforcing their commitment to not just sustain but also to innovate in their philanthropic endeavors.

PONT

FAMILY

Building upon the remarkable foundation of generosity laid by the Pont family, their contributions to the Be Perfect Foundation exemplify a profound commitment to making a real difference in the lives of those affected by paralysis. With their roots deeply entrenched in the values of compassion and philanthropy, mirrored through their endeavors with AP Express Logistics, the Pont family extends their ethos of care and precision in logistics to the realm of charitable giving. Their sizable donations have not only facilitated pivotal advancements in treatment and support for the paralysis community but have also inspired a wider culture of kindness and giving back. It's this spirit of unwavering support and belief in a cause greater than themselves that truly sets the Pont family apart as pillars of the community and beacons of hope for many. The impact of their generosity resonates far beyond the immediate benefits, fostering an environment of growth, recovery, and boundless potential within the paralysis community and beyond.



YOU HELP US CHANGE LIVES EVERY DAY!



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FRIEND OF THE



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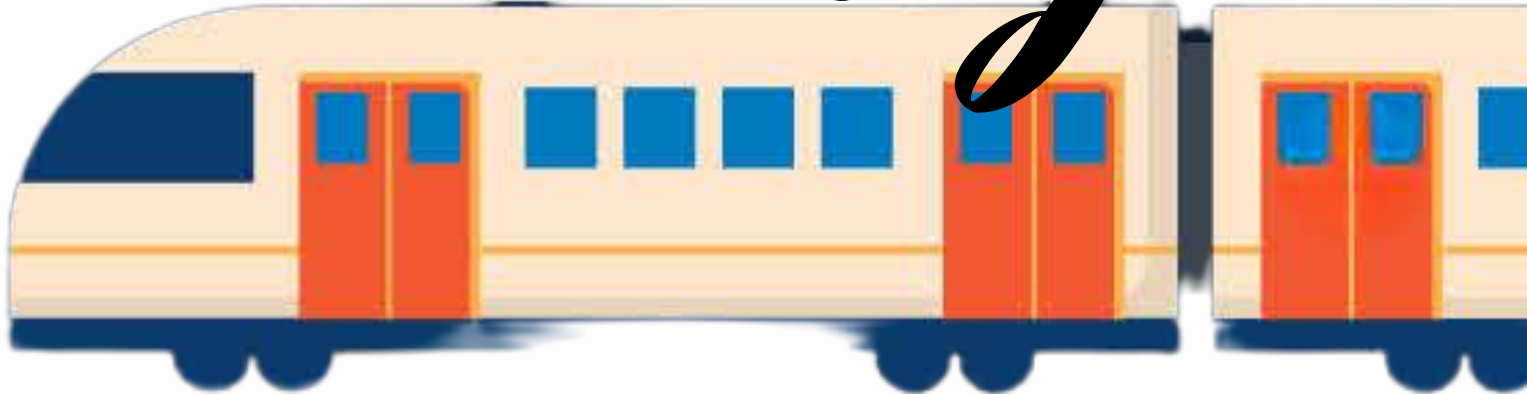
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PERFECT GEAR SPONSORS



Thank You



FOUNDATION SPONSORS





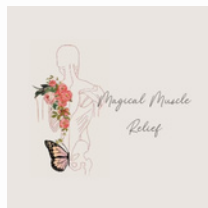
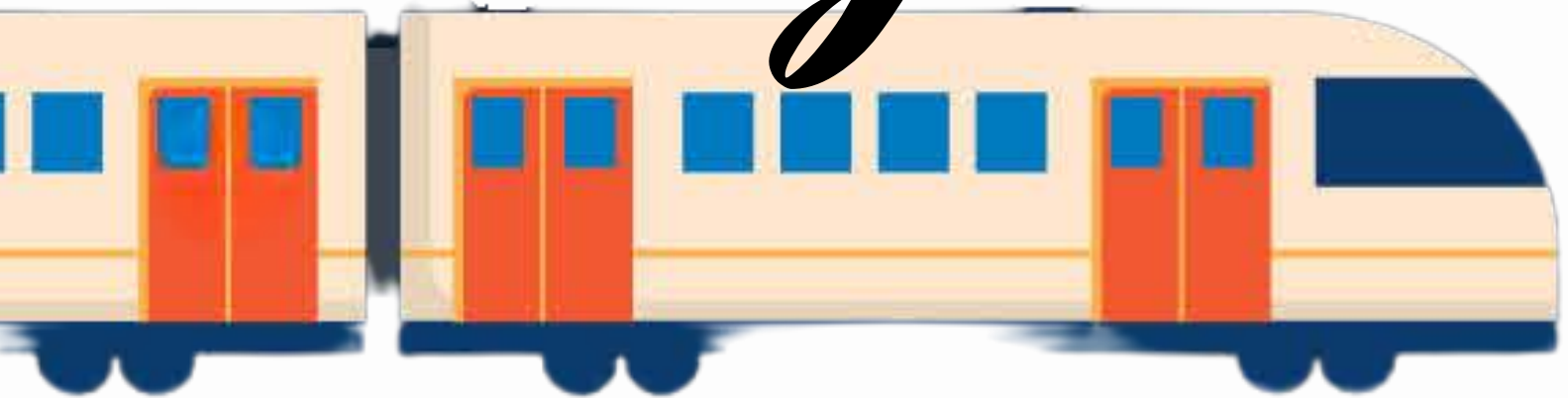
AUCTION DONORS



A Single Moment
PHOTOGRAPHY

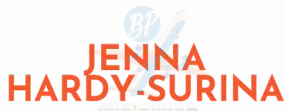


Thank You





YOUR GENEROSITY IS CHANGING LIVES!





BP 9.0 April 2022

Life Through a Different Lens



This event was a vivid reminder that our journey through the seasons of life is not just about the paths we tread but about the lives we touch and the stories we share.

Roll out the red carpet and let's take a walk down memory lane to reminisce about the spectacular gala of yesteryear, the ninth annual Be Perfect event. A night that not only glittered with the glamour of the roaring '20s but also shone brightly with the spirit of generosity, raising an awe-inspiring sum of \$700,000 and still counting. It was an evening that left us all in a state of humble reflection, truly embodying the essence of what it means to give wholeheartedly.

From the moment guests stepped onto the scene, transported by the allure of vintage cars straight out of the 1920s, the stage was set for an unforgettable journey. The entrance, adorned with a tapestry of smiling faces and heartfelt stories, paved the way to an auction room brimming with treasures waiting to be claimed, contributing a staggering \$137,000 from the silent auction alone. The heart of the event was undoubtedly the stories shared - stories that traversed the seasons of life: spring, summer, fall, and winter, narrated with profound introspection by Hal Hargrave Junior. His eloquent discourse on living through each season, regardless of the challenges, struck a chord with everyone, urging us to listen more intently, not just to the world around us but also to the whispers of our hearts.

As the night progressed, the spotlight shone on the remarkable journeys of Stefanie Schaffer, Jordan Walker, and Erika Franco, whose resilience and spirit left an indelible mark on our hearts. The evening was peppered with moments of profound reflection, from Harmony Bathauer's soul-stirring performance to the touching dialogue between Ashton Wray and her father, Randy Horowitz, each narrative weaving a tapestry of hope and perseverance.

The crescendo of the evening was reached with the presentation of the David Stoeklein award to a visibly moved Chris Clark, a moment of deep significance that resonated with everyone present. Brian Wurzell's impassioned plea for generosity set a lofty goal of reaching \$1 million, a testament to the boundless potential of collective philanthropy. As "Night Shift" serenaded the night away, the dance floor became a mosaic of joyous moments, a fitting end to a night that was not just about celebration but about making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. This event was a vivid reminder that our journey through the seasons of life is not just about the paths we tread but about the lives we touch and the stories we share, stories that inspire, motivate, and above all, unite us in the spirit of giving.



B.P. 8.0 marked a memorable evening at the Hafif Estate, drawing a crowd of 1,000 attendees united in support of The Be Perfect Foundation's mission to "Run Our Race," echoing the spirit of the Kentucky Derby-themed event. The ambiance was adorned with vibrant, oversized derby hats, and the air was filled with the aroma of mint juleps. The evening featured captivating performances, including one by David Fransisco, an American Idol contestant and burgeoning music sensation. Despite facing adversity after a bicycling accident in Nashville, David shared his journey with the crowd, serenading them with his enchanting voice during dinner service.

Run Your Race

BP 8.0 May 2018



Adding to the evening's allure, Victoria Arlen, a Dancing With The Stars contestant and Paralympic Games multi-medalist, delivered a keynote that left a lasting impression. Victoria's deeply moving narrative resonated with attendees as she courageously shared her decade-long battle with rare diseases, culminating in a spinal cord injury. Amidst these powerful stories, the true essence of the night emerged—a collective effort to raise funds for those battling paralysis, represented by 48 courageous clients who bravely shared their experiences. With unwavering support from generous donors, the event achieved a record-breaking fundraising milestone, surpassing \$500,000—a testament to the community's boundless compassion and commitment to making a difference

7TH INNING STRETCH

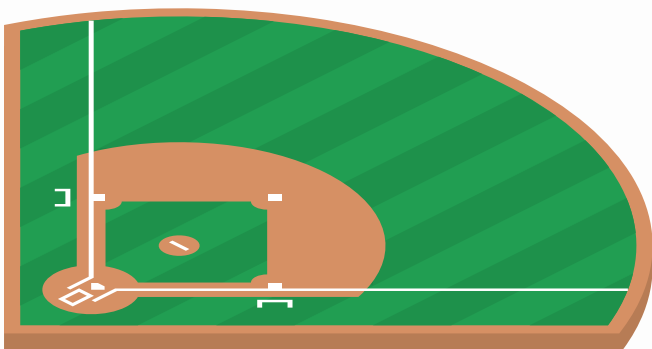
BP 7.0 May 2016



More than 1,200 individuals gathered under the enchanting stars at the Hafif Estate, where we successfully raised over \$400,000—a testament to the unwavering support of our community. This year's event, themed around baseball and sports, saw attendees donning their favorite sports jerseys, adding to the vibrant atmosphere. The highlight of the evening was the seventh-inning stretch, offering donors and committee members a moment to rejuvenate and reflect on their shared journey through numerous successful events and life's seasons, all dedicated to serving the paralysis community.

"DO WHAT YOU LOVE."

This informal gathering, a first of its kind for us, allowed guests to showcase their team spirit, revealing their deep-seated commitment and personal narratives. As we embraced this change of pace, we exceeded fundraising expectations, raising awareness around the theme of "doing what you love." Amidst the hustle and bustle of our professional and personal lives, it's essential to prioritize activities that bring us joy and fulfillment—a sentiment echoed throughout the night





BP 6.0 September 2014



Endless SUMMER

This year's event was truly exceptional. On a stunning evening at the Hafif Estate, a remarkable turnout of 1,000 individuals graced the event, accompanied by the heartwarming presence of over 100 volunteers and cherished friends, who generously contributed their time and dedication to bring the night to fruition.

The theme, "Endless Summer," infused the atmosphere with a sense of warmth and joy. Tom Clark's creation of yet another iconic painting for Be Perfect added to the event's allure, setting the stage for a poignant program and an exhilarating live auction that garnered nearly \$40,000 in support of the foundation. This remarkable success was made possible by the extraordinary generosity of donors, reaffirming our collective commitment to the paralysis community as we surpassed the \$300,000 fundraising mark once again



BP 5.0 May 2013



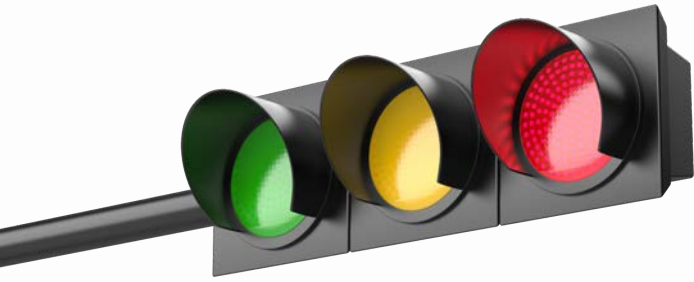
B.P. 5.0, held in May 2013 at the Hafif Estate, drew an impressive crowd of 1,200 attendees. The silent auction featured nearly 300 items generously donated by community partners from Claremont and neighboring cities, adding an exciting element to the evening's success. The program highlighted inspiring stories from some of the foundation's supported clients, alongside a captivating performance by the wheelchair dance team. The event raised over \$300,000, marking a significant milestone for the Be Perfect Foundation as it surpassed the

\$2 MILLION FUNDRAISING MARK in just five years.



Following the event, Project Walk in Claremont at The Claremont Club celebrated its Grand Opening the following week. The funds raised greatly benefited many clients, enabling them to continue their participation in the program. By the end of the fourth month, 35 full-time clients were enrolled, with plans underway for further expansion, including hiring additional trainers and assistants, as well as potential facility expansion by year's end





BP 4.0 September 2011

B.P. 4.0, held in September 2011, made history by shattering records. With a turnout of 1,000 attendees, including 50 spinal cord injury clients, the event raised an unprecedented \$425,000 for the paralysis community. This remarkable achievement underscores the Be Perfect Foundation's unwavering commitment to restoring hope for all those it serves.

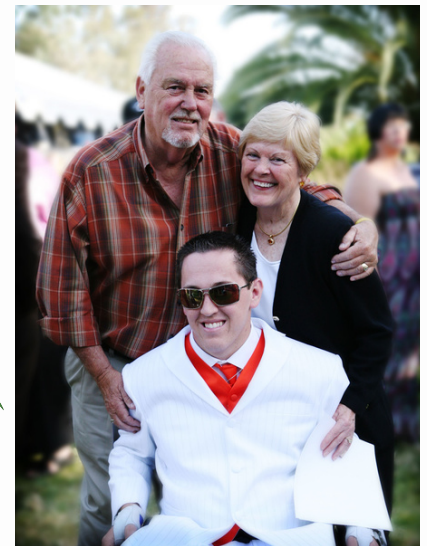


At B.P. 3.0, held in May 2010, the Be Perfect community rallied together, surpassing expectations with over 900 attendees, despite the prevailing economic challenges worldwide. Despite the downturn, the event managed to raise an impressive \$210,000 in support of the paralysis community. This edition of B.P. held a poignant significance as it paid tribute to our late friend Courtney Stewart, commemorated through the Nick Adenhardt Memorial Fund under the Be Perfect Foundation's umbrella. Hal Jr. facilitated a heartfelt moment by presenting bird baths to Richard and Carrie Dixon, Chris Stewart, and the Wilhite family, honoring

BP 3.0 MAY 2010

**THE EVENING WAS
MARKED BY
PROFOUND
INSPIRATION**

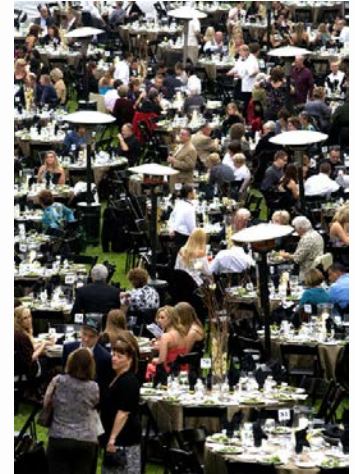
cherished individuals who left us too soon. The evening was marked by profound inspiration as four of our SCI clients, Tom Hampton, Jennifer Bou Lahoud, Amanda Van Esch, and Natalie Buchoz, defied medical expectations by walking onto the stage, a testament to the transformative impact of the Be Perfect Foundation's support and guidance.





BP 2.0 April 2009

For B.P. 2.0, despite a challenging economic backdrop, we were humbled by the turnout of over 800 supporters, continuing a tradition of surpassing expectations in our 16-year history. Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Hafif Family for graciously offering their stunning estate venue for the second consecutive year. The evening was brimming with enlightening updates, particularly on the transformative impact of exercise-based therapy for individuals with paralysis. Dr. Hans Keirsetad, a Stem Cell Research Scientist from UCI, shared groundbreaking advancements in stem cell research for SCI patients, alongside Eric Harness, who presented compelling evidence of improved quality of life and independence through Project Walk's recovery program. Raven Hall and her father, Mark, shared their poignant journey since Mark's injury in 2017, followed by the awe-inspiring



testimonies of Jordan Wilhelm and Arron Baker, who defied odds by walking on stage with canes, empowered by their dedication to exercise-based therapy. Despite being told they would never walk again, their resilience and hard work culminated in an unforgettable evening, raising over \$260,000 for our cause.



The inaugural event in 2008 marked a pivotal moment, profoundly impacting those involved. The gracious contribution of the exquisite Hafif Estate, generously provided at no cost, marked the beginning of what would soon become a cherished community tradition. We extend heartfelt gratitude to the Hafif Family for their unwavering support and generosity from the outset.

Just nine months before this event, Hal sustained an injury on July 26, 2007. The vision of the Be Perfect Foundation, aimed at offering direct financial and emotional assistance to individuals affected by spinal cord injuries, materialized into reality.

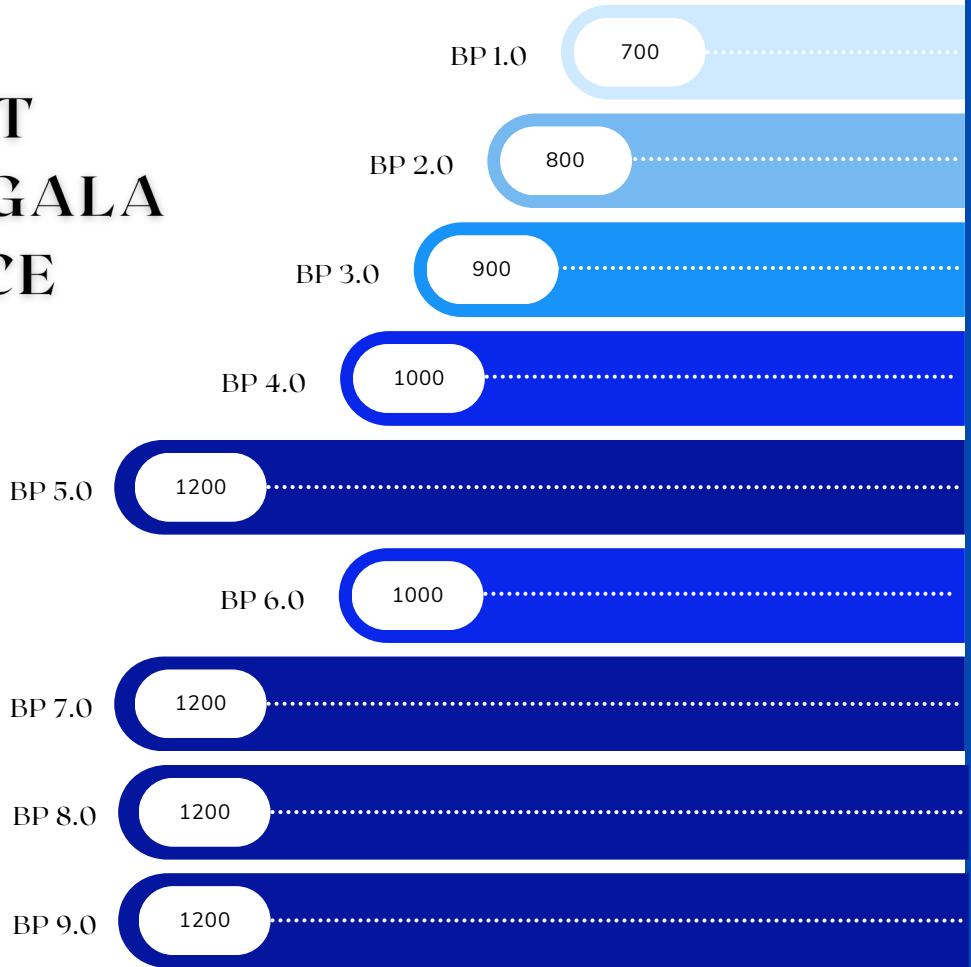
BP 1.0 April 2008



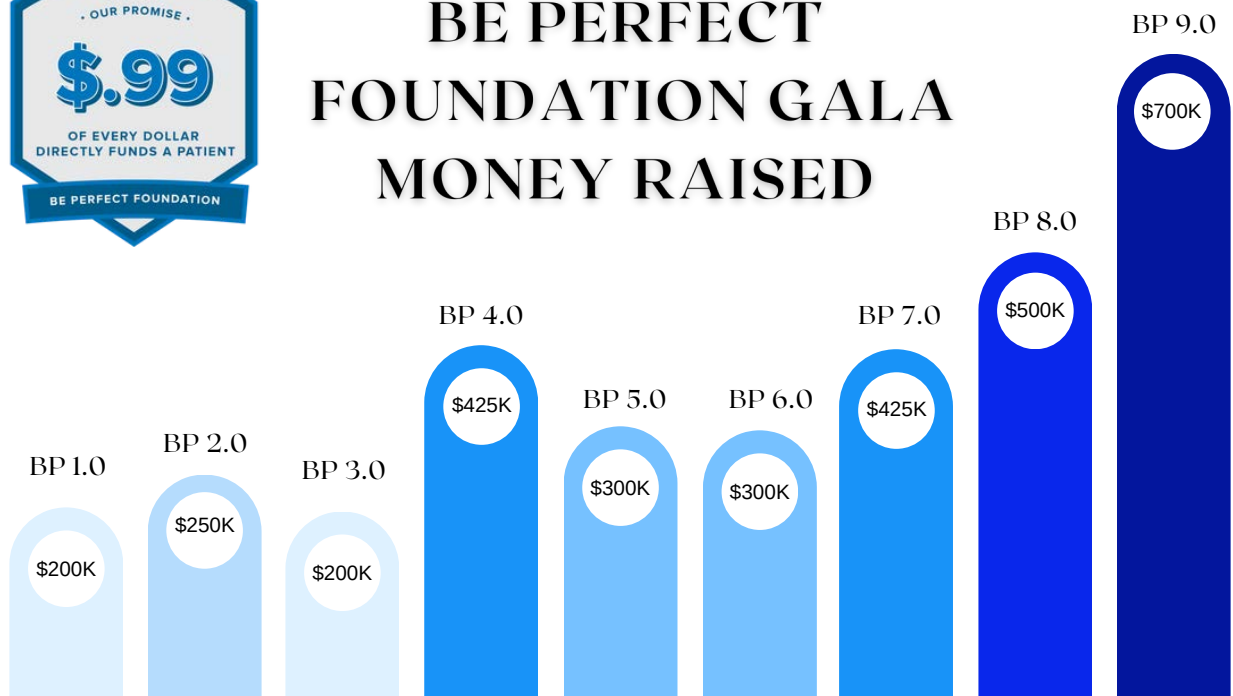
With the initial goal of raising \$35,000 and hosting 200 attendees, the community surpassed all expectations. A remarkable turnout of 700 supporters came together, rallying to raise over \$200,000. This remarkable achievement set a high standard in the foundation's inaugural year, igniting hopes for its enduring presence. It was truly the perfect beginning for a foundation destined to leave a lasting impact.



BE PERFECT FOUNDATION GALA ATTENDANCE



BE PERFECT FOUNDATION GALA MONEY RAISED





Meet



Hal Hargrave Jr.
Founder and President



Hal Hargrave Sr.
Vice President



Lorie Hargrave
Director of Event Coordination



Catie Hargrave
Event Production/Auction Coordinator



Alex Hargrave
Auction Coordinator



Jenna Hardy-Surina
Event Production Assistant



Ashton Wray
Event Production Assistant



Kristen Douglas
Head of Marketing and Social Media



Jake Scott
Event Coordinator



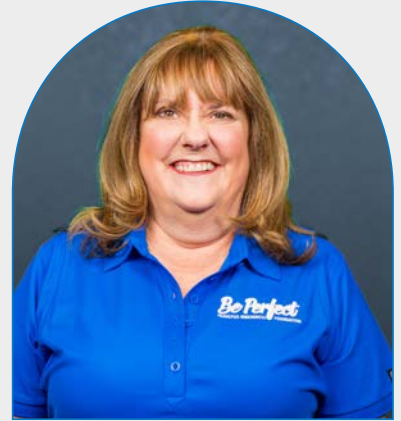
Our Team



Kathleen Hargrave
Treasurer



Teri Goodwin
Director of Event Production



Toni Frazier
Director of Auction Committee



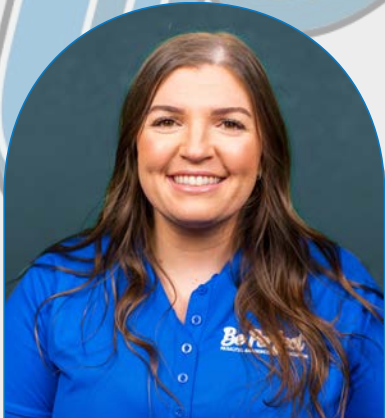
Britnee Heckman
Volunteer Coordinator



Hailey Scott
Volunteer Coordinator



Corey Hargrave
Event Coordinator



Amy Kronquist
Event Coordinator



Brian Goodwin
Event Coordinator



Nicole Leasher
Event Magazine Developer



Travel Through History with Be Perfect

IT HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE 16+ YEARS OF THE BE PERFECT FOUNDATION SERVING THE PARALYSIS COMMUNITY. BUCKLE UP AS WE LOOK BACK ON ONE UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY OF WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN A LOCAL COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND A CAUSE TO HELP NEARLY ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE CONQUER PARALYSIS EVERY DAY

CURRENT - 2024

THE BE PERFECT FOUNDATION HAS RAISED OVER \$9 MILLION AND SUPPORTED HUNDREDS OF CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES NATIONWIDE. THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY WE HAVE DONATED OVER 100 WHEELCHAIRS AND HOME AND CAR ADAPTATIONS, AND HAS FUNDED OVER 400 CLIENTS IN THERAPY PROGRAMS

2022

IN APRIL 2022 BP 9.0 SHATTERED THE BE PERFECT FOUNDATION RECORD OF DOLLARS RAISED AT \$700,000 FOR THE NIGHT

2020

AMIDST THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF COVID-19, OUR MISSION WAS MORE VITAL THAN EVER, REAFFIRMING THE CRITICAL NEED FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS INITIATIVES AS WE CREATIVELY SUSTAINED AND THRIVED AS A FOUNDATION

2016

AFTER BP 6.0 AND OVER \$5 MILLION RAISED IN IT'S HISTORY, THE FOUNDATION HAS BECOME ONE OF THE GOLD STANDARDS OF PHILANTHROPIC OUTREACH IN THE FIELD OF PARALYSIS RECOVERY

2012

AFTER 4 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA'S THE FOUNDATION HAS GROWN TO A CAPACITY TO SERVE THE GREATER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA. AT THIS POINT THE FOUNDATION HAS RAISED OVER \$2 MILLION

2009

THE BE PERFECT FOUNDATION AMASSES \$1 MILLION IN FUNDRAISING

APRIL 26, 2008

JUST 9 MONTHS AFTER HAL'S ACCIDENT, THE HARGRAVE FAMILY PUT ON BP 1.0 AND RAISED \$250,000 WITH OVER 700 ATTENDEES

JANUARY 2008

THE BE PERFECT FOUNDATION FILES FOR 501-C(3) NON-PROFIT STATUS TO BE DEEMED AN OFFICIAL PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION

JULY 26, 2007

HAL HARGRAVE JR'S AUTO ACCIDENT. HE IS NOW A C5/6 QUADRIPLAGIC



The Be Perfect Foundation Endowment Initiative

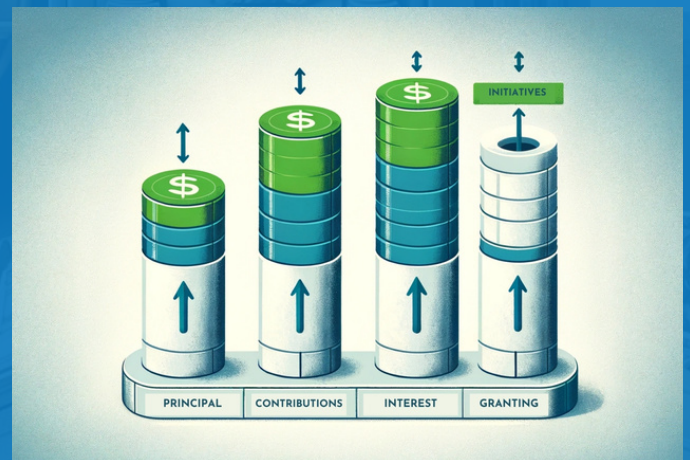
How It Works:

The principal balance of the Endowment remains invested, ensuring a continuous and perpetual gift, enhancing Be Perfect's liquidity and sustainability

Note: the endowment was created with the end in mind. In fact, we hope there is never an end to The Be Perfect Foundation. Thus, we have started an endowment to ensure our sustainability for life.

The Be Perfect Foundation aims to support individuals coping with paralysis by offering both financial and emotional assistance. Our overarching vision is a world where the financial burdens of living with paralysis are alleviated. To achieve this long-term goal, we are establishing an endowment fund, ensuring sustained philanthropic efforts. Endowments function as permanent funds, with the principal amount remaining intact while the generated income is utilized for specified purposes, such as programs and scholarships. This approach guarantees a stable resource for our mission.

Currently, our endowment fund exceeds \$800,000, thanks to a generous initial contribution. We prioritize its growth, intending to eventually utilize a portion of the interest earned while preserving the principal. This strategy ensures a perpetual revenue stream, reducing reliance on yearly fundraising efforts. We aim to establish an endowment of substantial size, providing financial stability for our programs without annual fundraising pressures.



Key aspects of our endowment include the protection of the principal balance against inflation, with excess income reinvested to maintain its value. Grants are made from the distributable balance, comprising net income and appreciation. While the endowment offers advantages like perpetual giving, its effectiveness may fluctuate based on market performance. Importantly, the principal balance remains invested, ensuring a continuous and perpetual gift, enhancing the foundation's liquidity and sustainability.

For those interested in contributing to our endowment fund, we welcome inquiries for further information. Meanwhile, all proceeds from events and donations go directly to our general fund, providing immediate support to individuals in need.



SCAN ME



FACILITY EXPANSION

NEW SPACE



The center has expanded its facility by an additional 10,000 square feet, now encompassing over 20,000 square feet at its flagship location.



ENHANCED OPERATING SPACE

The expansion includes more space for client services, allowing for a higher capacity and improved service delivery



INCLUSIVE & HOLISTIC APPROACH

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM



A new multipurpose room is dedicated to inclusive programming, providing a versatile space for various activities and therapies.

GYM FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Understanding the importance of community and support, the center now includes a gym for client family members, promoting a holistic approach to wellness.



RECOVERY STUDIO



A specialized recovery studio focuses on advanced recovery disciplines and technologies, furthering the center's commitment to cutting-edge treatment.



The Perfect Step's recent expansion is more than just a physical enlargement; it represents a deepening of their commitment to providing exceptional care and support to individuals with paralysis and neurological disorders. By integrating medical and fitness services and embracing digital content opportunities, The Perfect Step is poised to make a significant impact in the lives of many, fostering recovery, hope, and resilience.

INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES [®]



RECORDING STUDIO

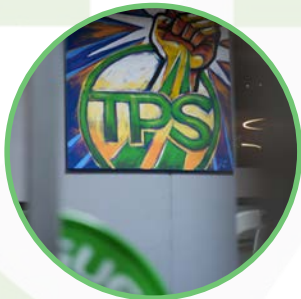
The addition of a recording studio opens opportunities for digital and virtual content creation, including the potential for hosted podcasts.

MEDICAL OFFICES

Two new medical offices bridge the gap between medical care and fitness, hinting at possible integration with the medical field in the future.



COMPREHENSIVE CARE



The Perfect Step houses professionals in chiropractic, acupuncture, massage, and mental health therapy, offering an integrated approach to recovery.

COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT

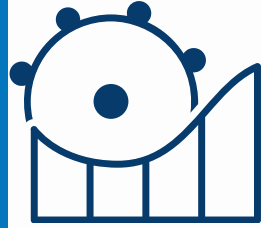
This multidisciplinary setting fosters a collaborative environment, ensuring clients receive well-rounded care tailored to their unique needs.





TPS CLIENT MILESTONES

“Ever since starting at The Perfect Step, I reached my milestone of being able to walk unassisted at the parallel bars and getting back on rides at Disneyland!” - **Alexis Evans**



“I have improved my cardiovascular health through the many exercises I do at TPS including the arm cycle, rower, and skier. A milestone I have reached outside of the facility was taking my first solo trip to Texas to see Luke Combs in concert.” - **Tyler Gilmore**



Coming to The Perfect Step has helped me improve my balance and transfer out of my wheelchair. I have been able to attend school, make friends, and adapt to my new lifestyle.

- **Emma Vargas**



“Thanks to The Perfect Step, I have a lot more movement & strength in my legs and have been able to kick a ball at home”

- **Julio Sandoval**



“One of my milestones at The Perfect Step was to improve my glute strength to be able to run and I have now been able to run on the track field at my high school”

- **Baron Schroeder**

“Some of the goals I have achieved while being at The Perfect Step are improving my balance & coordination and transferring. Outside of the facility, I have started driving.”

- **Abel Corona**



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL - CAITLIN

Meet CAITLIN ANTRIM

Caitlin's journey to her current state began with an undiagnosed rare blood clotting disorder known as Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. Following a kidney failure diagnosis, the commencement of dialysis, and the eventual identification of her clotting disorder during a critical surgery, her condition led to a cardiac arrest and five simultaneous strokes, resulting in a Traumatic Brain Injury and Lance-Adams Syndrome. This syndrome left her relearning all motor movements and coping with occasional seizures. With the assistance of The Perfect Step and Be Perfect Foundation, Caitlin is making strides in regaining her abilities.

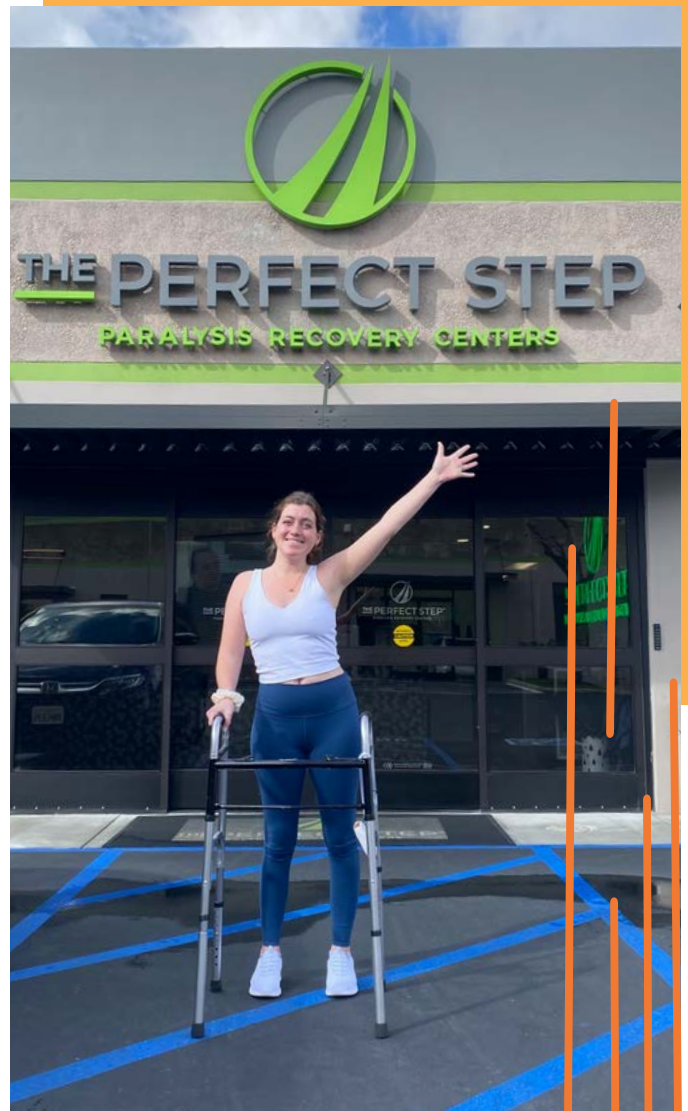
The Be Perfect Foundation came into Caitlin's life through her mother, who learned about the organization from Caitlin's therapist. Initially too weak and seizure-prone, Caitlin gradually gained strength through home health physical and occupational therapy, eventually beginning her intensive recovery at The Perfect Step (TPS) with support from the Be Perfect Foundation.

A significant turning point for Caitlin was the foundation's provision of a scholarship, enabling her to afford the intensive therapy at TPS. This support has been crucial in her recovery, helping her improve walking, motor skills, muscle strength, and neural pathway development. Caitlin attributes much of her progress to the skilled specialists at TPS and the advanced equipment they use, expressing profound gratitude for the foundation's belief in her potential.

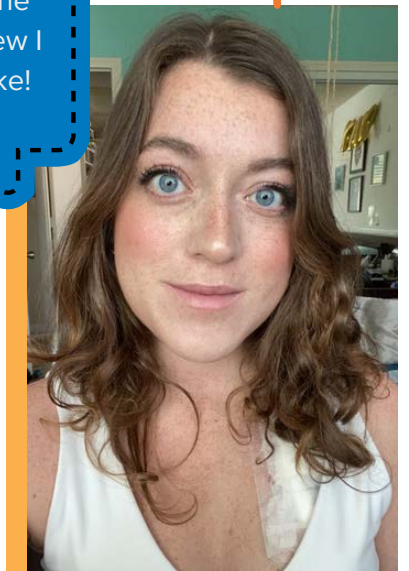
The foundation's services, particularly the holistic approach to recovery that considers individual differences, injuries, and goals, have played a pivotal role in Caitlin's journey. She values the personalized attention to her recovery process and the motivational environment that TPS offers, which resembles a gym rather than a hospital, fostering a sense of community among patients.

Not only has Caitlin seen improvements in her physical health, but she has also gained a new perspective and boosted her self-confidence, helping her embrace her post-TBI self, through relationships with other TPS clients in similar situations she has met at therapy. Getting back to the Caitlin she once knew, not only physically, but mentally and emotionally, would not be the same without the access she has been given to therapy at The Perfect Step.

Caitlin extends her heartfelt thanks to the Be Perfect Foundation, its supporters, and volunteers for the significant impact they've had on her recovery. She shares a personal milestone of celebrating Christmas with her family for the first time in six years, a testament to the foundation's commitment to helping her achieve her goals. Caitlin's story is a powerful example of resilience and the transformative role of targeted support in overcoming the challenges posed by severe injuries.



“ I am very grateful to the Be Perfect Foundation for believing in me and the progress that they knew I would be able to make!





WHAT IS ACCESSIBILITY?

When we think of accessibility our minds immediately go to ramps and making places wheelchair friendly - but it is so much more!



For the paralysis community, the importance of comprehensive inclusion cannot be overstated. Accessibility barriers can lead to isolation, exclusion from the workforce, educational disparities, and limited access to healthcare and other essential services. By removing these barriers, we not only enhance the quality of life for individuals with paralysis but also enable them to contribute their talents and perspectives to society. Inclusive practices and environments allow people with paralysis to pursue careers, engage in social and recreational activities, and participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives, thereby enriching the community as a whole.

In the designing process for a better accessible world,

these inclusive opportunities benefit everyone, not just the paralysis community. Features such as ramps, accessible seating, widened doorways, accommodations of infrastructure in seating at local establishments, accessible websites, and clear signage improve usability for those in the paralysis community, namely those who are physically affected and/or wheelchair users. Inclusion in this context acts as a catalyst for innovation, leading to the creation of products and services that cater to a wider range of human needs and experiences. Ultimately, embracing accessibility and inclusion for the paralysis community reinforces the principle that diversity is a strength and that everyone has a valuable role to play in society.





outside the ramp

Communication



Providing information in accessible formats (e.g., braille, large print, audio descriptions) and ensuring that communication methods in public and private services (like sign language interpreters or captioning services) are available to accommodate diverse needs.

Technology and Digital Accessibility



Ensuring that digital platforms, websites, and technological devices are designed with accessibility features (like screen readers, voice recognition, and customizable interfaces) enables individuals with paralysis to access information, services, and communication tools.

Social Inclusion



Beyond physical and digital access, social inclusion is vital. This means creating opportunities for individuals with paralysis to participate fully in community life, including employment, education, recreation, and social events, without facing barriers or discrimination.

Inclusion in all its forms is fundamentally important on a social level because it reflects the values of equality, diversity, and human rights. Ensuring accessibility and inclusion for the paralysis community not only facilitates their ability to participate in daily life but also affirms their dignity and value as equal members of society. When public spaces, transportation, digital platforms, and social activities are accessible, it sends a powerful message that every individual, regardless of their physical abilities, has the right to access and opportunities. This inclusivity strengthens social cohesion, fosters diverse communities, and encourages a culture of empathy and understanding

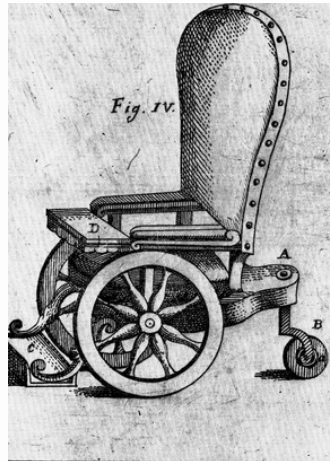


History of the Wheelchair

A JOURNEY OF INNOVATION
AND EMPOWERMENT



This journey from the earliest wheeled furniture to the high-tech chairs of today tells a story of continuous improvement and empowerment for individuals with mobility impairments.



The 20th Century The Era of Modern Wheelchairs The 20th century was transformative. After World War II, the increased number of veterans with disabilities led to substantial advancements. In 1933, engineer Harry Jennings built the first folding, tubular steel wheelchair for his friend Herbert Everest, who was paralyzed. This design, the Everest and Jennings model revolutionized wheelchair accessibility and became the standard for decades.

Electric Wheelchairs and Technological Advancements The introduction of the electric wheelchair in the 1950s marked a new era of independence. George Klein, motivated to assist injured veterans, developed the first electric-powered wheelchair. Since then, technological advancements have led to wheelchairs with customizable controls, adjustable seating systems, and even stair-climbing abilities.

The 21st Century Smart Wheelchairs and Beyond Today, the focus is on smart wheelchairs equipped with sensors, GPS, and other technologies, offering greater autonomy and safety. Innovations continue to emerge, like wheelchairs designed for various terrains and sports, highlighting the importance of accessibility in all life's aspects.

Ancient Origins The concept of wheel-based mobility aids dates back to ancient civilizations. The earliest recorded instance is an inscription found on a stone slate in China, dating to the 5th century B.C. It depicted a wheeled transport device. Similarly, Greek artifacts from the 6th century B.C. show children using wheeled beds. These rudimentary devices set the stage for the development of more sophisticated mobility aids.

The Middle Ages to the 16th Century The Middle Ages saw limited advancement in wheelchair design. However, in the 16th century, an image of King Phillip II of Spain in a chair with wheels, armrests, and leg rests signifies a pivotal moment. This chair, designed for comfort and functionality, marked a departure from the basic, utilitarian designs of earlier periods.

The 18th and 19th Centuries Pivotal Innovations The 18th and 19th centuries witnessed significant milestones. In 1783, John Dawson of Bath, England, created the Bath wheelchair. With two large wheels and one small one, it became the first widely used wheelchair. The 19th century introduced push rims for self-propulsion, and by the late 1800s, wheelchairs resembled modern-day designs with adjustable footrests and reclining features.

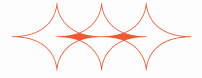
The history of the wheelchair is a testament to human resilience and the quest for inclusivity. From ancient depictions to modern smart wheelchairs, each advancement has been a step towards greater independence and quality of life for people with disabilities. As technology continues to advance, the future of wheelchair design holds limitless possibilities, promising even greater freedom and empowerment for individuals with mobility challenges.





The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990, stands as one of the most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation in American history. It prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for people with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. The ADA's enactment marked a culmination of years of advocacy and struggle for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

AMERICAN'S WITH *Act* DISABILITIES



In 1977, activists occupied the San Francisco Federal Building for 26 days to fight for disability rights. Photo by Anthony Tusler.



Pres. George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act, on the South Lawn of the White House, July 26, 1990



Disability Rights activists demonstrating for the ADA.

The journey to the ADA began long before its enactment. In the decades following World War II, a growing disability rights movement began to take shape. This movement was fueled by several factors: an increasing number of disabled veterans, the civil rights movement, and a growing sense of activism among people with disabilities. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, various pieces of legislation, such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (now the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA), laid the groundwork for the ADA. These laws addressed issues of accessibility in public buildings and education for children with disabilities but did not broadly prohibit discrimination in other critical areas.

Drafting and Passage The ADA was largely inspired by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. It was drafted with the intent to create a comprehensive law that would protect the rights of people with disabilities across all aspects of public life. Activists, including leaders with disabilities and their allies, played a crucial role in the drafting and passage of the law.

One of the most notable events in the lead-up to the ADA's passage was the Capitol Crawl in 1990, where more than 1,000 people with disabilities gathered at the U.S. Capitol, with dozens leaving their wheelchairs and crawling up the Capitol steps to emphasize the importance of the legislation.

Key Provisions The ADA is divided into five titles:

1. Title I: Employment - Prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in the workplace.
2. Title II: Public Services - Requires public services and public transportation to be accessible.
3. Title III: Public Accommodations - Mandates accessibility in businesses and non-profit service providers.
4. Title IV: Telecommunications - Requires telephone and internet companies to provide services for people with hearing and speech disabilities.
5. Title V: Miscellaneous Provisions - Contains various other provisions relating to the ADA as a whole.

The ADA has been amended over the years to address various issues and to respond to legal interpretations that might have limited its effectiveness. The ADA Amendments Act of 2008, for instance, broadened the definition of disability to encompass a wider range of conditions.

The ADA not only transformed America's physical and digital landscapes but also significantly changed the social fabric. It stands as a testament to the power of advocacy and the ongoing struggle for equality and inclusivity. As society evolves, the ADA continues to be a crucial tool for ensuring that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the full spectrum of American life.



wheel the world

Wheel the World is a company dedicated to making travel accessible for people with disabilities. They offer detailed information on accessible hotels, activities, and multi-day trips in over 250 destinations. Their commitment is to provide accurate accessibility information and specialized customer support to fulfill travelers' needs. With a customer satisfaction index of 9.5 out of 10, Wheel the World has served thousands of travelers and their companions from more than 10 countries, embodying core values like passion, positive activism, collaboration, humility, and disruptiveness.

Unlocking the World:

Erika and Stefanie's Wheel the World Adventures

In a world where travel often seems bound by limitations, Wheel the World emerges as a beacon of hope and possibility for the disabled community. This travel agency, dedicated to serving those with disabilities and their loved ones, is redefining what it means to explore without boundaries. Through the eyes of Erika and Stefanie, we dive into the heart of a company making the world accessible, one trip at a time.

“make the world accessible”



A New Era of Travel

Erika paints a picture of Wheel the World as a company that caters meticulously to the needs of people with disabilities, ensuring worry-free travel experiences. Her journey to Costa Rica with Wheel the World was a revelation, filled with activities once thought impossible for a full-time paralyzed wheelchair user. From zip-lining to surfing, Erika's adventure was a testament to the company's dedication to accessibility and inclusion.

Stefanie's narrative echoes this sentiment. Her group trip to Costa Rica required minimal planning on her part, with Wheel the World ensuring every aspect of the journey was accessible. The company's role extended beyond mere travel planners; they were facilitators of dreams, providing wheelchair-accessible vans, handling luggage, and ensuring each hotel room met ADA standards. The highlight of Stefanie's trip? Zip-lining and adaptive surfing, are experiences that Wheel the World made accessible for their group.



The Wheel the World Difference

Both Erika and Stefanie emphasize the company's comprehensive approach to travel. From ADA-compliant hotels and transportation to personalized activities, Wheel the World handles every detail. This allows travelers to focus on the joy of discovery and the thrill of adventure, rather than the logistics of accessibility.

Their stories are a powerful reminder of the transformative potential of travel. Wheel the World not only opens up new destinations but also fosters a sense of independence and freedom among travelers with disabilities. It challenges preconceived notions of accessibility and proves that with the right support, the world is truly everyone's to explore.

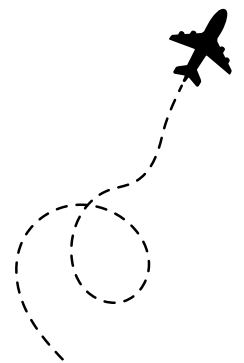
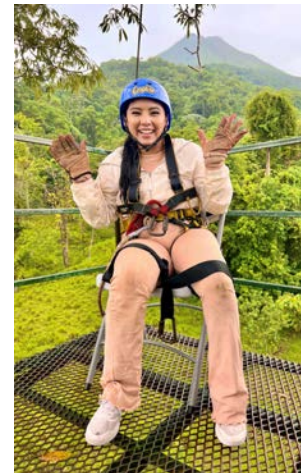
Navigating Challenges Together

Even when faced with setbacks like delayed flights, Wheel the World's responsive and supportive approach shines through. Stefanie's and Erika's experiences highlight the company's commitment to ensuring peace of mind, showcasing their ability to adapt and reorganize plans swiftly, ensuring the adventure continues smoothly.

A Call to Adventure

The journeys of Erika and Stefanie with Wheel the World are more than just travel tales; they are narratives of empowerment, inclusivity, and the breaking down of barriers. They invite us to view travel through a lens of possibility and to see the world as a place ripe for exploration, regardless of physical limitations.

As Wheel the World continues to chart new paths and create accessible travel opportunities, the stories of Erika and Stefanie serve as a beacon for all, illuminating the endless horizons that await when we embrace the world with open arms and adventurous spirits.



If you or someone you know is interested in Wheel the World and the services they offer, please visit www.wheeltheworld.com to learn more.

ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE!



DON'T PARK IN THE STRIPES

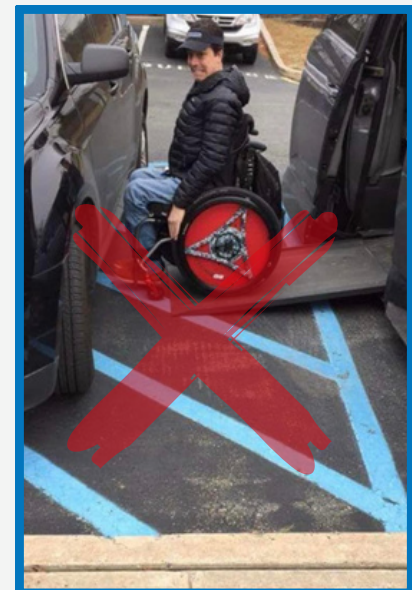
In a world where parking spaces are as coveted as gold, there exists a peculiar breed of human who defies logic and decency with their parking prowess—or lack thereof. Yes, we're talking about those able-bodied individuals who seem to think the vibrant blue stripes of a handicapped parking zone are a fashionable accessory for their vehicles.

PICTURE THIS:

You're driving through the parking lot, eyes peeled for that elusive spot close to the entrance. Suddenly, you spy it—a shimmering oasis in a sea of asphalt, a handicapped parking space. Your heart leaps with joy as you anticipate the convenience of a shorter walk to your destination. But alas, your dreams are dashed as you approach, only to find a shiny sedan perched comfortably within the boundaries, devoid of any handicapped sticker or placard. The possibilities are as endless as the excuses scribbled on a hastily penned note left on the windshield:

*“I’LL JUST BE A
MINUTE”*

"I'll just be a minute," it reads as if time somehow absolves the sin of parking in a handicapped zone. But amidst the chaos and comedy, there lies a deeper lesson to be learned. Let us not forget that handicapped parking spaces exist for a reason—to provide access and accommodation to those who need it most. So the next time you're tempted to squeeze your sedan into a space meant for wheelchairs and walkers, remember the golden rule of parking etiquette: park where you're supposed to, or prepare to face the consequences—both humorous and humbling.





EMPOWERING MOBILITY

Adapted vehicles play a pivotal role in empowering individuals with disabilities, offering them a sense of independence and freedom that is often taken for granted by the able-bodied. These vehicles are not merely modes of transportation; they are lifelines that enable people with various physical challenges to partake in daily activities, work, and social events with greater ease and comfort. The evolution and customization of adapted vehicles demonstrate a profound commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and autonomy, allowing users to experience the world on their own terms.

The Essence and Impact of Adapted Vehicles

At the heart of adapted vehicles is the principle of modification to suit individual needs. These vehicles undergo extensive alterations to become accessible and usable for people with disabilities. From hand controls to wheelchair accessibility, each feature is meticulously designed to address specific mobility challenges. The goal is to create a driving or traveling experience that is as safe and comfortable as possible, thereby enhancing the user's independence and quality of life.

Technological Advancements

The realm of adapted vehicles is constantly evolving, with modern technology playing a significant role in enhancing their functionality. Innovations such as adaptive cruise control, collision avoidance systems, and parking assistance not only augment safety but also contribute to easing the driving process for individuals with disabilities. These advancements reflect a continuous effort to integrate cutting-edge technology into adapted vehicles, aiming to meet and exceed the diverse needs of their users.

The Broader Significance

Adapted vehicles symbolize much more than the ability to travel; they represent freedom, autonomy, and the relentless pursuit of inclusivity. They are a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of the human spirit, embodying the drive to overcome barriers and explore new horizons. The ongoing development of these vehicles, marked by technological innovations and ergonomic designs, showcases a deep-seated commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals with mobility challenges.



- **Hand Controls:** Essential for individuals who cannot use traditional foot pedals due to limited leg mobility. Hand controls are ingeniously designed to allow the operation of the vehicle through hand movements, encompassing braking and acceleration functions.
- **Steering Aids:** Modifications like spinner knobs and palm grips facilitate steering for those with reduced arm strength or dexterity, ensuring that driving remains a viable option.
- **Wheelchair Accessibility:** The inclusion of ramps, lifts, and adjustments to the vehicle's structure, such as lowered floors or raised roofs, cater to the needs of wheelchair users, emphasizing ease of access and comfort.
- **Transfer Seats:** Motorized seats that swivel and lower are a boon for those transitioning from a wheelchair to the car seat, embodying the thoughtful integration of convenience and functionality.
- **Voice-Activated Systems:** Tailored for drivers with limited hand mobility, these systems offer control over the car's various features without the need for physical manipulation, highlighting the advancement of technology in adapted vehicles.
- **Adaptive Mirrors and Cameras:** These enhancements are geared towards improving visibility for drivers with mobility restrictions, playing a crucial role in ensuring their safety on the road.
- **Customized Seating:** The importance of ergonomically designed seats cannot be overstated, especially for individuals with spinal injuries or other conditions that necessitate additional support and comfort.





Facts About

DID YOU

OVER 5 MILLION AMERICANS LIVE WITH SOME FORM OF PARALYSIS, OFTEN RESULTING FROM NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS SUCH AS SPINAL CORD INJURY, STROKE, AND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.

APPROXIMATELY 17,810 NEW SPINAL CORD INJURY CASES ARE REPORTED IN THE U.S. EACH YEAR, WITH MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS BEING THE LEADING CAUSE.

MORE THAN 10 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE LIVE WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE, WITH SYMPTOMS INCLUDING TREMORS, STIFFNESS, AND DIFFICULTY WITH BALANCE AND COORDINATION.

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS), ALSO KNOWN AS LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE, AFFECTS ABOUT 2 OUT OF EVERY 100,000 PEOPLE EACH YEAR IN THE U.S., LEADING TO PROGRESSIVE PARALYSIS.

ONLY 35.9% OF ADULTS WITH A DISABILITY ARE EMPLOYED IN THE U.S., COMPARED TO 76.6% OF THOSE WITHOUT A DISABILITY, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR MORE INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.





Paralysis

KNOW?



STROKE IS A LEADING CAUSE OF SERIOUS, LONG-TERM DISABILITY IN THE U.S., WITH NEARLY 800,000 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING A NEW OR RECURRENT STROKE ANNUALLY.

EACH YEAR, TBIS CONTRIBUTE TO A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DEATHS AND CASES OF PERMANENT DISABILITY, WITH FALLS BEING THE LEADING CAUSE.

CEREBRAL PALSY IS THE MOST COMMON MOTOR DISABILITY IN CHILDHOOD, AFFECTING APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 345 CHILDREN IN THE U.S.

NEARLY 1 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE U.S. ARE LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, A DISEASE WHERE THE IMMUNE SYSTEM EATS AWAY AT THE PROTECTIVE COVERING OF NERVES, RESULTING IN DIMINISHED BODILY FUNCTION.

ADVANCES IN ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE AND MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS, HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH PARALYSIS.



INNOVATIONS FOR PARALYSIS



Stem Cell Research

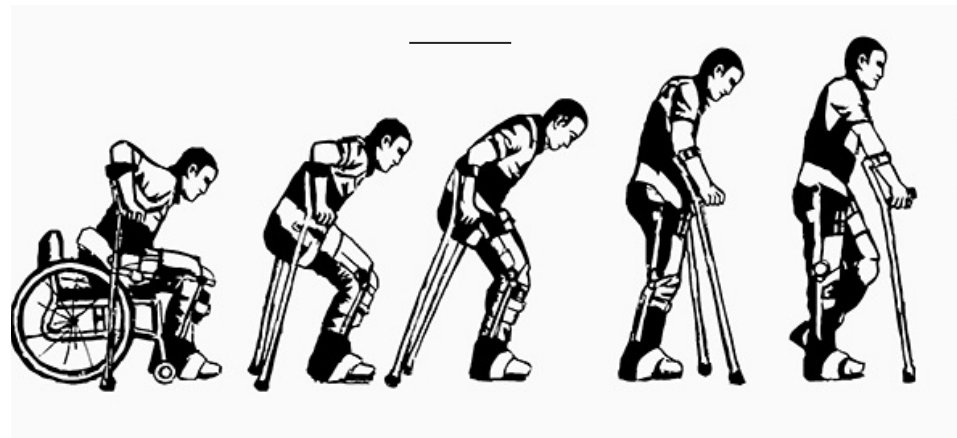
Stem cells hold immense promise in regenerative medicine due to their remarkable capacity to differentiate into various cell types. Recent advancements have particularly focused on harnessing stem cells for repairing damaged nerve tissues, showcasing promising progress.

Clinical trials targeting spinal cord injuries have demonstrated encouraging results, with patients reporting enhancements in sensory functions and mobility. However, despite these advancements, challenges persist in ensuring the safety and efficacy of stem cell therapies, underscoring the need for further research and development to realize their full potential in clinical applications.

Neurological Implants

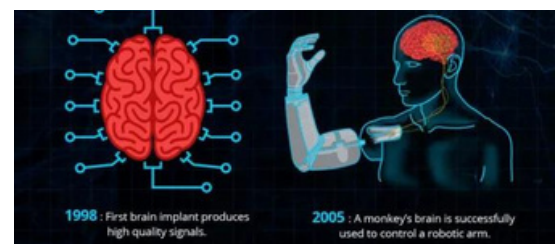
Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) represent a groundbreaking technology enabling direct brain control of prosthetic limbs or computers by bypassing damaged neurological pathways. Similarly, Spinal Cord Stimulators have revolutionized pain management by delivering electrical pulses to the spinal cord, offering relief and, in remarkable cases, restoring limb movement in individuals with paralysis. Recent research endeavors are dedicated to refining these devices, aiming to improve their accuracy and responsiveness. The ultimate goal is to make these implants more intuitive for users, further advancing their functionality and accessibility in enhancing the lives of those with neurological impairments.

Recent advancements in medical science and technology have ushered in a new era of potential treatments and solutions for individuals living with mobility impairments and paralysis. These innovations, ranging from stem cell research to robotic exoskeletons, offer hope for improved mobility and quality of life.



Robotic Exoskeletons

Robotic exoskeletons represent a transformative technology, offering hope and mobility to individuals with paralysis. These wearable devices enable users to stand, walk, and execute basic movements, significantly enhancing their quality of life. Recent advancements have seen these exoskeletons evolve into more user-friendly, lightweight, and customizable models, making them increasingly prevalent in rehabilitation settings. They play a crucial role in aiding recovery and improving muscle function for users. However, a significant hurdle persists in ensuring the widespread accessibility of these technologies. The challenge lies in making them more affordable and accessible to a broader population, thus ensuring that the benefits of robotic exoskeletons can reach as many individuals in need as possible.





NEURALINK

Neuralink's groundbreaking technology proposes a minimally invasive, robot-assisted implantation process to reduce risks and recovery time. Through wireless communication with computers or other devices, the implanted device translates neural signals into digital commands, holding potential for various medical applications. Primarily focused on spinal cord injuries and neurological



disorders, Neuralink aims to restore functions like movement, speech, and hearing, offering hope for individuals with paralysis to control computers or prosthetic limbs with their thoughts. Moreover, it could revolutionize brain health monitoring, aiding in the early detection and mitigation of neurological diseases. While Neuralink has made strides with animal trials and progresses towards human trials, challenges persist in perfecting the technology for safe human use and addressing ethical concerns regarding privacy and societal impact. Despite these hurdles, Neuralink represents a significant advancement in neurotechnology, promising revolutionary treatments while emphasizing responsible and safe development for the benefit of humanity

Gene Therapy



Gene therapy holds promise in treating neurological disorders by targeting specific genes responsible for the disorder, potentially correcting or modifying them. Advances in molecular medicine are investigating methods to halt or even reverse the progression of neurological conditions leading to paralysis. The evolving landscape of treatment options for paralysis and mobility impairments showcases groundbreaking research and technological innovations that offer new possibilities. While many of these treatments are in various stages of development or clinical trials, they symbolize significant hope for enhancing the lives of individuals affected by neurological disorders and paralysis. As research progresses, these advancements hold the potential to bring us closer to effective treatments and, perhaps, even cures for these challenging conditions.

The advancements in spinal cord injury and paralysis treatment herald a new era of hope and possibility. With breakthroughs in stem cell therapy, robotic exoskeletons, brain-computer interfaces, and gene therapy, we are witnessing unprecedented progress in the field. These innovations offer tangible hope for individuals living with paralysis, promising improved mobility, function, and quality of life. As researchers continue to push the boundaries of science and technology, we are living in truly exciting times, where the once unimaginable is becoming a reality. With each discovery and development, we move closer to a future where paralysis may no longer be an insurmountable obstacle, but rather a challenge that can be overcome



A Decade of Impact: *The Ontario Reign and Be Perfect Foundation's Collaborative Journey*

The Ontario Reign is an exciting AHL hockey team affiliated with the Los Angeles Kings. They play their games at the Toyota Arena, bringing thrilling hockey action to fans in the Inland Empire. The team is all about community spirit, competition, and fostering talent that might one day shine in the NHL with the Los Angeles Kings.



The Ontario Reign has a rich history that dates back to their days in the ECHL, where they were a prominent AA hockey league team. They've transitioned from the ECHL to become a key part of the AHL, aligning closely with the Los Angeles Kings as their affiliate. This move not only elevated the level of play but also strengthened their ties within the hockey community, providing a direct path for players to progress to the NHL.

The Ontario Reign hockey club and organization's participation isn't just for the sport; they aim to positively impact the local community, especially youth, through their Hope Reigns Foundation.

The Hope Reigns Foundation is the charitable arm of the Ontario Reign, focusing on enhancing opportunities for youth and families in the Inland Empire through educational, recreational, and health-related programs. By leveraging the excitement around hockey, the foundation aims to make a positive impact in the community, collaborating with local organizations to achieve its goals. Their community outreach includes collaboration with local youth

organizations to achieve its goals. Their community outreach includes collaboration with local youth organizations and groups to raise awareness and funds. The Hope Reigns Foundation aims to utilize the enthusiasm of Reign fans to enhance opportunities for youth and families in the Inland Empire. It's a blend of sports, community service, and entertainment that brings people together!

The co-collaborative impact of The Be Perfect Foundation and the Ontario Reign working together:

The partnership between the Ontario Reign and the Be Perfect Foundation, enriched by the Claremont Club's initial involvement, has been a hallmark of community engagement and support. This alliance, deeply rooted in the spirit of giving, has been instrumental in fostering a culture of philanthropy within the local communities, particularly focusing on those impacted by paralysis. The annual jersey auction galas, a highlight of this partnership, have not only been a platform for raising funds but have also served as a

beacon of hope and awareness for the paralysis community. These events, marked by the auctioning of game-worn jerseys featuring the logos of the Be Perfect Foundation and the Claremont Club have become a cherished tradition.

In 2022, the Be Perfect Foundation assumed a more significant role, amplifying its presence and advocacy efforts at Toyota Arena, where fans can now see the logos of the Be Perfect Foundation and The Perfect Step on the ice. This visibility has been crucial in bringing continued awareness to the paralysis community.

The most recent jersey auction, held on February 29, 2024, was a testament to the enduring impact of this collaboration, raising over \$35,000. The cumulative efforts over the past 12 years of this difference-making partnership have

raised over \$360,000

directly benefiting the program services of the Be Perfect Foundation and offering substantial support to individuals facing financial hardships due to paralysis.

For more detailed information, you can visit their website, <https://ontarioreign.com/>.



Meet KEVIN PIMENTAL



Thank you to all the foundation's supporters and volunteers. Your work goes a long way, and will forever be appreciated!

Kevin Pimental, a 22-year-old from Pomona, CA, shares his journey with The Be Perfect Foundation. Enduring a spinal cord injury from a gunshot wound, Kevin's pursuit of normalcy includes weekly visits to The Perfect Step alongside indulging in his love for football, particularly supporting the Cowboys, and exploring new movies during his leisure time. Kevin was introduced to the Be Perfect Foundation through The Perfect Step's grand opening in Pomona. Kevin highlights the foundation's pivotal role in his life. Their scholarship program facilitated his access to The Perfect Step's services, catalyzing significant progress in both his emotional and physical recovery journey. BP's support, particularly through his scholarship grant, has been instrumental in Kevin's rehabilitation efforts. Attending the Be Perfect Gala in 2022 left an incredible mark on Kevin, really driving home the power of the BP community and collective action for a noble cause. Kevin wholeheartedly recommends The Be Perfect Foundation to those facing similar challenges or seeking avenues to support meaningful causes. The foundation's assistance during critical phases of his recovery underscores its potential to positively transform lives. To the foundation's supporters and volunteers, Kevin extends heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering dedication and generosity. He acknowledges their contributions as pivotal in his journey towards healing and rehabilitation. Kevin also expresses profound appreciation to the donors of The Be Perfect Foundation. Their generosity has left a memorable mark, profoundly impacting his journey towards recovery and a life he is proud to live.



Thank you for reading friends and supporters!

These past 10 events have been nothing short of amazing. It has been a profound journey of unforgettable moments. I'm proud to share the transformative initiatives and profound impact WE have made within the paralysis community. Our journey has been one of more than just financial assistance; it embodies a holistic approach to empowerment, innovation, and community building. Throughout our history, we are quickly approaching the \$10 million mark of dollars raised, providing direct support to hundreds of individuals and their families across the nation. A standout moment throughout this journey was our record-breaking fundraising event in April 2022, where we raised \$700,000 in one night, shattering our previous records. This monumental achievement reflects the unwavering support and commitment of our community to our cause.

Innovation and technological advancements have been at the forefront of our mission to enhance the quality of life for individuals with paralysis. Our magazine highlights the significant strides we've made in adaptive technologies, like voice recognition software and motorized wheelchairs, which have revolutionized accessibility and independence. Our dedication to fostering technological innovation showcases our forward-thinking approach to overcoming the challenges faced by our community.

The magazine also brings to light personal testimonials from individuals whose lives have been transformed through your support. These stories of resilience and recovery not only illustrate the tangible impact of our work but also serve as a beacon of hope for others facing similar challenges. Our commitment to providing scholarships for therapy programs and adaptive equipment has facilitated significant progress in both the physical and emotional well-being of our clients. Looking ahead, our vision for the Be

Perfect Foundation extends beyond immediate support, aiming for long-term sustainability and impact. The establishment of an endowment fund is a testament to this vision, securing our future and expanding our reach. This strategic move ensures that we can continue to provide critical support to the paralysis community, breaking down barriers and fostering an environment of inclusivity and empowerment. While our goal will always continue to focus on being able to impact lives in the here and now, we have also begun to think about the end in mind. In doing so, we are ensuring our sustainability for life without impacting our ability to make a difference in the here and now.

This magazine highlighting our 10th Annual Scholarship Gala not only celebrates our past achievements but also sets the stage for our future endeavors.

With a continued focus on our program services, accessible innovation, community support, and sustainable growth, we are poised to carry on our vital work, transforming lives and making a lasting impact on the paralysis community. Our journey is a powerful testament to what can be achieved when compassion, innovation, and community unite in pursuit of a common goal.

Signing off with gratitude,

Hal Hargrave Jr.

Founder & Executive Director
of the Be Perfect Foundation



• OUR PROMISE •

\$.99

OF EVERY DOLLAR
DIRECTLY FUNDS A PATIENT

BE PERFECT FOUNDATION

Scan the QR Code to Donate Today!



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