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## **DREAM CATCHERS RECEIVES \$4305 QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION FOR SUREHANDS LIFT**

WILLIAMSBURG, VA – Nov. 19, 2019 – [Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center](#) is proud to announce that it has been awarded \$4,305 as part of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) High Impact Priority Quality of Life Grants and Direct Effect grants cycles. Seven High Impact Grants totaling \$232,266 and 73 Direct Effect Quality of Life Grants totaling \$1,244,263 were awarded. The Quality of Life Grants Program supports nonprofit organizations that empower individuals living with paralysis. Since the Quality of Life Grants Program’s inception, 3,153 grants totaling over \$26 million have been awarded. Funding for these new cycles of grants were made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (ACL grant #90PRRC0002-01-01).

The Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center has a number of grant programs under the Quality of Life program awarding grants in different category areas, varying in different amounts. The High Impact Priority Quality of Life Grants fund projects in the following areas: Transportation, Respite/Caregiving, and Disaster Response, Nursing Home Transition, and Employment, while the Direct Effect Grants support a wide range of short-to mid-term projects and activities that will clearly impact individuals living with paralysis and their families.

“There are several components that go into these projects,” said Mark Bogosian, Director, Quality of Life Grants Program. “If we can provide programmatic and other financial supports, even in the short term with the Direct Effect grants, these organizations can now focus on executing their mission, leading to greater success, expansion, and sustainability.”

The Reeve Foundation funded a wide variety of projects from employment programs to accessible playground projects and adaptive sports programs.

Dream Catchers used the grant for an anticipated replacement motor and associated parts and service on its SureHands Lift System. This lift was originally installed in 2008 with the generous support of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation’s 2007 2nd Cycle Quality of Life grant award of \$7,550.

The SureHands Lift enables many Dream Catchers participants to safely and efficiently mount and dismount their horses so they can engage in therapeutic riding. Riders with mobility issues might not be able to participate if not for the SureHands Lift. The SureHands lift system also provides a dignified way to confidently transfer Dream Catchers participants from their wheelchairs onto and off their horses.

Dream Catchers participant Tori Bodett benefits greatly from the lift. As her parents shared with The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, Tori was in a horrific car accident in 2000 at just two-years-old. As a result, she is severely disabled with a traumatic brain injury. When she began riding at Dream Catchers at seven-years-old, she

was smaller and easier to safely lift. Today, Tori has grown and is 21 years old. Having endured a few major spinal surgeries within the past couple years, a working lift is essential so she can continue riding. The family is grateful to The Christopher Reeves Foundation for providing the lift.

Katy Jones, mother of Dream Catchers' participant Abby, shared her gratitude for grant, "As you know, Abby has been riding at Dream Catchers for many years and I cannot say enough great things about the volunteers, the facility and the staff. But I really wanted you guys to know how much independence the lift offers a young lady with cerebral palsy. She wants to do as much as she can on her own and the lift allows her to help herself onto Norman versus having people have to lift her on and off the horse. She told me the lift is really 'awesome,' so I thought you guys should know. Thank you for everything you all do for all the participants."

To learn more, visit [DreamCatchers.com](http://DreamCatchers.com) or call (757) 566-1775.

### **Images**

Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/foud59iviy75pmz/AAD1N7Ha1bRCZt-R8QIqwa0Va?dl=0>

### *Captions*

**DreamCatchers\_Lift-ToriB** Dream Catchers participant Tori Bodett receives assistance mounting her therapy horse thanks to the SureHands Lift supported by a new grant from The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

**DreamCatchers\_Lift-AbbyJ** Dream Catchers participant Abby Jones receives assistance mounting her therapy horse thanks to the SureHands Lift supported by a new grant from The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

### **About Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center**

Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center is a Premier Accredited Therapeutic Riding Center through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.). The nonprofit organization serves an average of 80 to 100 participants each week to help children and adults with special needs reach their potential and make dreams come true. Located in Toano, Virginia, Dream Catchers serves the communities from Richmond through Hampton Roads.

### **About the Reeve Foundation:**

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information, and advocacy. The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) is the support side of the Reeve Foundation's twin missions to provide "Today's Care" and to strive for "Tomorrow's Cure" and offers a free, comprehensive, national source of informational support for individuals living with paralysis and their caregivers. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB's Charity Seal. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) or call 800-539-7309.

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