

Media Contact: Bethany Meccariello, Mason, Inc.
203.393.1101 x166
bmeccariello@mason23.com

Hospital for Special Care Receives Quality of Life Grant from Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Grant funds to be used towards racing wheelchairs in HSC's Adaptive Sports Programs

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (Aug. 22 2013) – [Hospital for Special Care](#) (HSC) is proud to announce that it has received a \$7,120 Quality of Life grant from the [Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation](#). The award was one of 74 grants totaling over \$500,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations nationwide that provide more opportunities, access, and daily quality of life for individuals living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers. Created by the late Dana Reeve, the program has awarded 2,205 grants totaling nearly \$17 million since 1999.

The Quality of Life Grant funds will be used towards racing wheelchairs as part of Hospital for Special Care's Adaptive Sports Program, which offers training and competition in wheelchair track and road racing for youth and adults living with physical disabilities.

"The sports wheelchairs will be utilized weekly at practices to meet the needs of an estimated 12 to 24 people, and during peak racing season, we want to accommodate those athletes who have a greater interest in training towards racing competitions," said Janet Connolly, Sports and Community Programs Manager, HSC. "We are grateful for the support from the Reeve Foundation because they are helping youth and adults living with disabilities to actively participate in sports, improving their overall health and quality of life."

Connolly added that one hundred percent of participants utilize a wheelchair in HSC Adaptive Sports Programs. The [Paralympic Games](#), in particular, raised the awareness of adaptive sports opportunities and excited many more people to consider participating in programs.

"It is the Reeve Foundation's esteemed pleasure to award Quality of Life grants that will help the paralysis community enhance their freedom and independence," said Niketa Sheth, Senior Vice President of Quality of Life of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. "We are thrilled to be able to align with organizations that believe in our mission and the ability for those living with paralysis to achieve fulfillment."

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life grants program was conceived by the late Dana Reeve to address the myriad needs of children and adults living with paralysis and other mobility impairments and their families. Grants support critical life-enhancing and life-changing initiatives that improve physical and emotional health and increase independence. Funded projects offer a diversity of services and approaches: improving access; providing education and job training; sponsoring organized sporting activities; and much more. Quality of Life grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information on HSC's Adaptive Sports Programs, visit www.hfsc.org.

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. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB's Charity Seal. The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) is a program of the Reeve Foundation, and is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Award No. U59DD000838. For more information, please visit our website at ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-539-7309.

About Hospital for Special Care

Hospital for Special Care (HSC) is one of the five largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospitals in the United States and the nation's only long-term acute-care hospital serving adults and children. HSC is recognized for advanced care and rehabilitation in pulmonary care, acquired brain injury, medically-complex pediatrics, neuromuscular disorders (including ALS research), spinal cord injury, comprehensive heart failure as well as diagnostic, assessment and consulting services for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Located in New Britain and Hartford, CT, HSC operates inpatient and outpatient facilities serving Southern New England on a not-for-profit basis. For the latest news and information, please visit www.hfsc.org, and follow us on Twitter [@HospSpecialCare](https://twitter.com/HospSpecialCare).

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