



SCI CONNECT is a spinal cord injury group offering guidance for newly injured individuals and their families located in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Navigating this injury may be difficult, so we are here to help you any way we can.

Introduction to this Resource Tool

SCI Connect is a group of connected Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan individuals whose lives have been impacted by a *spinal cord injury (SCI)*. Our group includes individuals living with an SCI, caregivers, family, and friends.

Our mission is to create a forum for awareness, education, advocacy, and support for individuals in our area living with a spinal cord injury.

We have created this tool as a resource for newly injured individuals and their families. Our goal as a group is to provide you with an outlet to connect with any of our members in hopes that we can assist with the myriad of questions accumulating in your head. The members of our group can truly relate and can help try to understand what has happened to your loved one and how you will manage it. We remember those early days of our injuries and how overwhelming it seemed. We remember how few resources were available from the hospitals or physicians to help us determine where to go for inpatient/outpatient rehab, how to arrange transportation, navigate insurance, arrange for home care, necessary home renovations, etc. We remember how devastated you and your family member most likely feel in this moment, and we want to help lighten the load.

On the following pages, you will find some basic information about each one of our members. Find someone who seems like a good fit and reach out. We are all here to answer your questions, address your concerns, or to just listen. We understand. We've been there. We want to change the prognosis for the spinal cord injury community and improve the quality of life for all of us affected by SCI.

We have also assembled a list of resources we've found to be helpful as we learned about our injury and what it means.

Jeremy Bigelow

Birth Year: 1983

Injury Level: C3-4, incomplete

Date of Injury: 10/3/2010

Rehab Hospital:

Ohio State University Medical Center,

Craig Hospital (Denver, CO)

Residence: Holland, OH

Insurance:

Waiver program

(Ohio Medicaid/Medicare) Buckeye Health Plan

Family Caregiver (*if any*): Mom, Dad and
Fiancée (*if needed*)

Ventilator experience: Yes; weaned off after 8 months

Type of Catheter: Suprapubic

Primary Care Physician: Dr. Brian Hinch - UTMHC, Toledo, OH

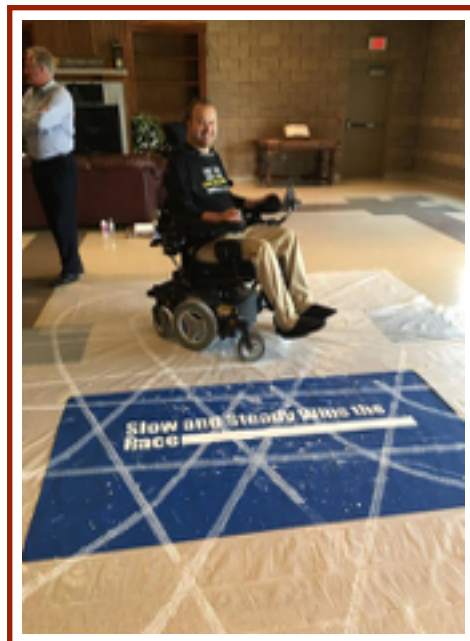
Physical Medicine & Rehab: Dr. Steven Farrell - UTMHC, Toledo, OH

Interests: motivational speaking, advocating, faith, hunting, painting, coaching, hockey,
football, concerts, and physical rehabilitation at *Walk the Line to SCI Recovery*.

Personal Motto: *"Slow and steady wins the race!"*

Phillippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Contact info: jbigelow22@gmail.com 419-297-2906



David Casares

Birth Year: 1986

Injury Level: C4-5

Date of Injury: 8/29/2010

Rehab Hospital: University of Michigan

Residence: Oregon, OH

Insurance: Frontpath, Medicaid/Medicare - Primary

Family Caregiver (if any): Roommates/Ben

Ventilator experience: Yes

Type of Catheter: Mitrofanoff

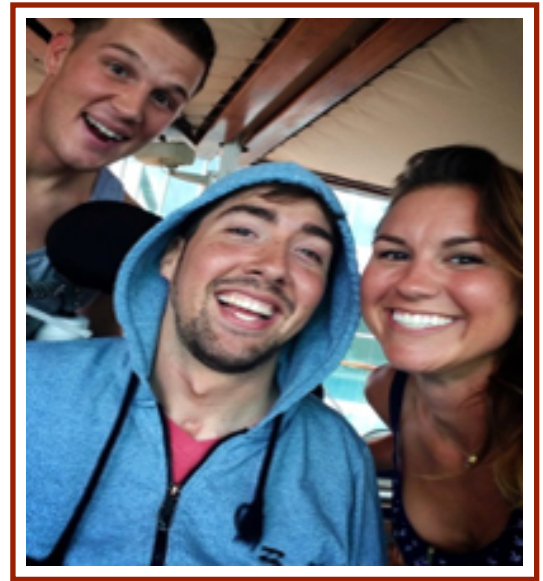
Primary Care Physician: Dr. Powers

Physical Medicine & Rehab: Dr. Farrell - UTMC

Interests: music, movies, reading and travel

Personal Motto: "Can't stop, won't stop."

Contact info: david.casares1258@gmail.com 419-262-1287



Breck Davis

Birth Year: 1972

Injury Level: C5-6

Date of Injury: 6/14/1993

Rehab Hospital: Craig Hospital (Denver, CO)

Residence: Perrysburg, OH

Insurance: TriCare, Paramount, Medicare

Family Caregiver (if any): Parents and Brother

Ventilator experience: Yes, for 10 days after accident

Type of Catheter: Suprapubic

Primary Care Physician: Dr. Schaffer - UTMC

Physical Medicine & Rehab: Dr. Woocher - UTMC

Interests: pool, fantasy football

Personal Motto:

Contact info: 419-297-5882 Father (Bill Davis) - 419-376-1952



Jason Finn

Birth Year: 1969

Injury Level: C5

Date of Injury: 1/9/2016

Rehab Hospital: Rehab Institute of Chicago

Residence: Old West End, Toledo, Ohio

Insurance: MMO/Medicaid

Family Caregiver (*if any*): Girlfriend and Sister

Ventilator experience: Yes; 8 weeks

Type of Catheter: Suprapubic

Primary Care Physician: Dr. Brian Hinch - UTMC

Physical Medicine & Rehab: Dr. Steve Farrell - UTMC

Interests: music festivals, nature, and holistic medicine

Personal Motto:

Contact info: 419-377-0383



Tiffany Fox

Birth Year: 1978

Injury Level: C4 – complete fused to C7

Date of Injury: 9/29/2013

Rehab Hospital: Shepard Center (Atlanta, GA)

Residence: Montpelier, OH

Insurance: Medicare and Medicaid

Family Caregiver (*if any*):

Ventilator experience: Vent for 2 years

Type of Catheter: Urostomy

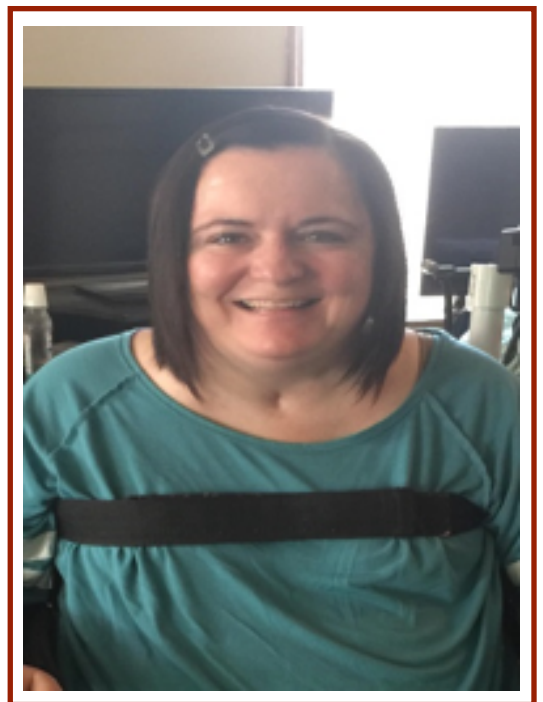
Primary Care Physician: Dr. Zimmerman (Bryan)

Physical Medicine & Rehab:

Interests: art, nature

Personal Motto: *"Don't live in fear or you'll never live."*

Contact info: 419-212-6132



Cortney Hoffman

Birth Year: 1986

Injury Level: C5-6

Date of Injury: 7/30/2002

Rehab Hospital:

St. Vincent's, UTMIC,

University of Michigan, and Craig Hospital

Residence: Lambertville, Michigan

Insurance: Medicare, Medicaid, and
Michigan Auto Insurance

Family Caregiver (if any): Mom, fiancé

Ventilator experience: None

Type of Catheter: Mitrofanoff
(straight cath through belly button)

Primary Care Physician: Dr. Gould, University of Michigan

Physical Medicine & Rehab: Owen Perlman - St. Joseph Mercy, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Interests: concerts, traveling, boating, fishing, sporting events, crafting, yard work

Personal Motto: *"You can choose to dwell on the past or make the best of what you have. I choose to live the best I can."*

Contact info: 419-467-2935



Dwight Jones

Birth Year: 1980

Injury Level: C4, C5, C6 incomplete

Date of Injury: 5/28/2007

Rehab Hospital: UPMC

Residence: Toledo, Ohio

Insurance: Aetna Better Health,
Medicare and Medicaid

Family Caregiver (if any):

Ventilator experience: None

Type of Catheter: Suprapubic

Primary Care Physician: Ryan Richardson

Physical Medicine & Rehab: N/A

Interests: video games and chilling

Personal Motto: *"No struggle, no progress."*

Contact info: 419-418-1035



Tyler Keller

Birth Year: 1995

Injury Level: T5, T6

Date of Injury: 2/25/2015

Rehab Hospital: Craig Hospital- (Denver, CO)

Residence: New Boston, MI

Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield
and Auto No Fault Michigan

Family Caregiver (if any): Parents and friends

Ventilator experience: Yes

Type of Catheter: Speedy cath and straight cath

Primary Care Physician:

Physical Medicine & Rehab:

Interests: The Recovery Project, Walk the Line, personal training, sports,
sled hockey, video games and rodeo

Personal Motto: *"Every day is a new day to reinvent yourself, but are ya silly?
I'm just gonna send it!"*

Contact info: tkeller533@gmail.com 734-644-6418



Eric Krompak

Birth Year: 1972

Injury Level: C5

Date of Injury: 1/22/1995

Rehab Hospital: RHI Rehab Hospital of Indiana

Residence: Maumee, OH

Insurance: Paramount Elite

Family Caregiver (if any):

Ventilator experience: 6 weeks on a vent
trach experience

Type of Catheter: Suprapubic

Primary Care Physician: Dr. Thomas Cox

Physical Medicine & Rehab: Dr. Szapiella

Interests: travel, movies, music, dancing and yoga

Personal Motto: *"I break easily, but I don't die."*

Contact info: echair@bex.net



Allie Leatherman

Birth Year: 1987

Injury Level: C6-7

Date of Injury: 7/19/2014

Rehab Hospital: University of Michigan

Residence: Northwood, OH

Insurance: MyCare Ohio

Family Caregiver (if any): Agency

Ventilator experience: N/A

Type of Catheter: Suprapubic

Primary Care Physician: Dr. Liz Mayer

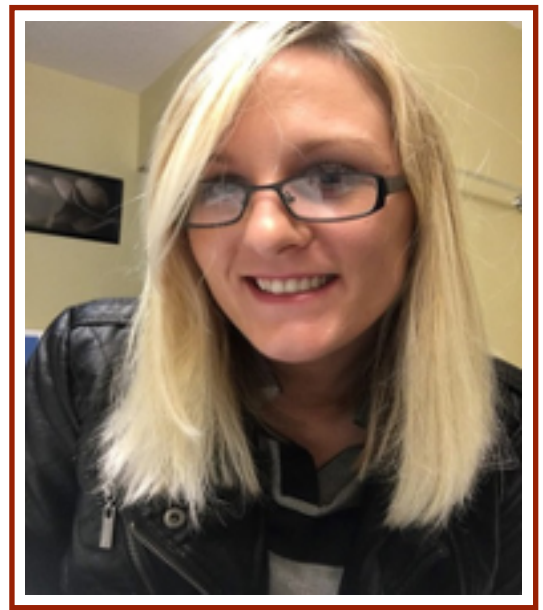
Physical Medicine & Rehab: Mary Free Bed, Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Michael Wheaton and Dr. Frederick Frost

Interests: history, politics, philosophy with friends, food, nature and music

Personal Motto:

Contact info: 419-917-7037 (cell)



Brock Mealer

Birth Year: 1984

Injury level: T12 and L1

Date of Injury: 12/24/2007

Rehab Hospital: St. Vincent's, Univ. of Michigan

Residence: Wauseon, OH

Insurance: Paramount/Medicare

Family Caregiver (if any): N/A

Ventilator experience: None

Type of Catheter:

Primary Care Physician:

Physical Medicine & Rehab: University of Michigan

Interests: guitar, flying, motivational speaking

Personal Motto: *"Impossible is nothing."*

Contact info: 419-583-6153



James Murtha III

Birth Year: 1989

Injury level: C4

Date of Injury: 10/5/2014

Rehab Hospital: Craig Hospital, Denver, CO

Residence: Ann Arbor, MI

Insurance: Medicare, Blue Care Network, Medicaid

Family Caregiver (if any): Parents help with meal preparation, transportation, laundry, some exercising and shopping. I have paid care for morning and evening help.

Ventilator experience: Yes; 6 weeks

Type of Catheter: Suprapubic

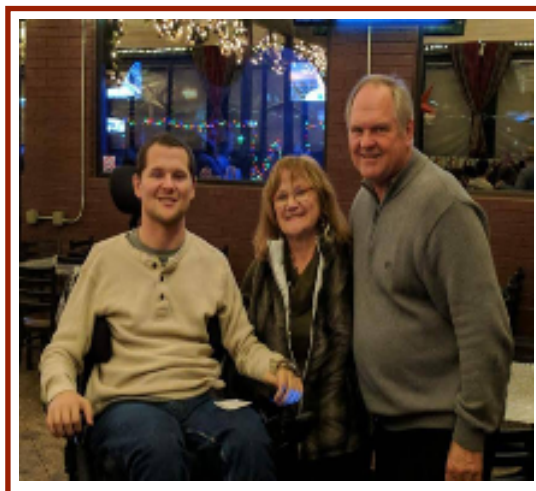
Primary Care Physician: Dr. Gary Yen in Ann Arbor (U of M Briarwood Family Medicine)

Physical Medicine & Rehab: Dr. Edmund Chadd (Burlington Building, Ann Arbor)

Interests: family, music, football, college basketball, art, painting, movies, YouTube, self-improvement, volunteering, Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, comedy, spirituality, meditation, photography, beaches, dogs and food

Personal Motto: "Other people have gone through this and live(d) successful and fulfilling lives; I will do it too."

Contact info: jmurtha89@gmail.com 989-906-3339



Useful Resources/Websites/Blogs/Groups

Ohio SCI Connect: www.ohiosciconnect.org

The Ability Center: www.abilitycenter.org

Spinal Cord Injury Zone: www.Spinalcordinjuryzone.com

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation: www.christopherreeve.org

Unite 2 Fight Paralysis: www.u2fp.org

AbleThrive: www.ablethrive.com

New Day. New Dawn. New Life: newdawnforus.blogspot.com

Struggling with Serendipity: www.strugglingwithserendipity.com

Adaptive Sports/Recreation Resources

Michigan Adaptive Sports: www.michiganadaptivesports.com

Adaptive Sports Connection: www.adaptivesportsconnection.org

Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio: www.adaptivesportsohio.org

Be Adaptive Equipment: www.beadaptive.com

Wheeling Sportsmen: www.maumeevalleynwtf.com

Action Trackchair: www.actiontrackchair.com