



the

HEADLINER

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The Newsletter of the Brain Injury Association of Oregon

New Hope For Those Living with Traumatic Brain Injuries: Learning to Walk Again

There is a current therapy paradigm shift toward recovery focused rehabilitation for those experiencing traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

With the increasing number of war veterans returning with complicated TBI's, therapist workloads have grown in epidemic proportions. This has created the need for new solutions facilitating those living with TBI to walk and stand again.

Physical and Occupational Therapists at the VA Polytrauma Hospital unit in Tampa FL report that the amount of returning war veterans they observe coming in with TBI have more than doubled this past year. Many of the TBI injuries source from blast exposure. Co-morbidities or multiple medical problems [such as spinal cord injury (SCI), fracture, and amputations or lost limbs] are common among the returning veterans in the TBI population.

The Second Step Gait Harness System® (GHS) has proven effective both with acute injury SCI and TBI patients in VA hospitals, and also in private home or long term care facilities. It offers new hope to returning veterans and their families who are trying to find practical therapy solutions.

This GHS has also been recently integrated into a local adult day health center here in Oregon, where it is helping those living with TBI to walk again. Grace Center for Adult Day Services is an adult day health center located in Corvallis, Oregon. They have been using the GHS since late 2005, and have seen great results with several of their participants living with brain and neurological disorders.

Of particular note is the experience of their youngest participant, Knute M., who is now 34 years old. When Knute was 11 years old, he had a traumatic brain injury from a MVA and had never walked after that accident. In

February 2006 Knute began walking in the GHS twice a week at Grace Center. This was described as a "dream come true!" for this young man. Knute began walking only a few feet, now routinely walks 100 feet, and has walked up to 200 feet in the GHS. A recent video of Knute walking is on the internet, and is titled "Walking Again after 22 years!"

The GHS has been proven to be highly effective dealing with the extremely challenging circumstances of those living with SCI and TBI. Many of these people had not walked in many years, and were told they would never walk again. The GHS is offering new direction and a possible therapy solution for those living with TBI who are learning to walk again.

For additional information or video viewing, please visit our website at www.secondstepinc.com, or contact Second Step, Inc., Steffani Dubats, Director of Marketing, at 541.337.5790, steffani@secondstepinc.com

BONNIE ROBB
RN, BSN, CCM, CNLCP

**MEDICAL / DISABILITY
CASE MANAGEMENT
NURSE LIFE CARE PLANNING**

16869 SW 65th Avenue, PMB 108
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

**BONNIE ROBB
CONSULTING**

Phone: 503-684-8831
Fax: 503-670-4861
Cellular: 503-804-6287
Email: BRobb2000@aol.com

NICHOLS & ASSOCIATES
Attorneys at Law

DAVID R. KRACKE
Attorney at Law

4614 SW Kelly Avenue
Suite 200
Portland, OR 97239

(503) 224-3018
Fax (503) 222-0693
david@craignicholslaw.com

**Have you had an
insurance claim for
cognitive therapy denied?**

If so call:

Julia Greenfield
Staff Attorney

Oregon Advocacy Center
620 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97204

Phone: (503) 243-2081 Fax: (503) 243 1738
jgreenfield@oradvocacy.org