

Meet Kurt 'KC' Christensen

Play the ball where it lies and never give up... A story to remember.



Engage. Empower. Inspire.

Annual Appeal 2016



"I'm the luckiest man alive."

December, 2008, KC was in a serious automobile accident along with two of his friends. One of his best friends did not make it; his other dear friend was able to free himself from the car and get up over the embankment and get help. An astute EMT noticed that KC was still breathing. He was still alive, but had suffered a traumatic brain injury.

"It's been a long road, but at least I'm on it."



After 45 days in a coma, KC began his long and slow recovery from a traumatic brain injury (TBI) whose long term effects included partial paralysis, memory loss, difficulty in mental processing, balance and a seizure disorder. "My first thought coming out of my coma and realizing I couldn't move my left arm was, Oh No! I can't play golf! That's funny, because actually I had to relearn how to breathe, speak, eat, walk, balance and think."



"Keep your head up!"

Before the accident KC, a recent PSU graduate, was a very talented young golfer on the road to a bright future as a Golf Pro and working as the assistant pro at the Owl's Nest Resort & Golf Club. After a long road of hard work and determination, KC is back on the greens – swinging a club and teaching others how to golf through the New England Disabled Sports adaptive golf program. "For a couple of years, I played golf with one arm. I now play with two hands, and my game improves every season. I just love to teach others with brain injuries, I am sure I received the "teaching gene" from my mom."



'SWEET TIME' Tournament

Over the past 6 years, KC's family has held an annual golf tournament fundraiser at Owl's Nest to help fund KC's care and ongoing therapy. Once a year KC goes to the Taub Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama



where there are continuous improvements in the equipment and theories to help people who have suffered a stroke or brain injury. KC's abilities over these years have skyrocketed. KC never stops fighting!

*With a little help from friends,
family and Lakes Region
Community Services*



KC has received services through LRCS since the accident. With assistance from his mother, Patti Burlingame, KC manages his own services through a 'Self Directed Services' (SDS) option using his dollars creatively to receive the supports he needs to live as



KC meets with Denis Breton, LRCS SDS rep.

independently as possible. KC is achieving his goals through hard work, a positive attitude and a love of life - all of which makes him a true inspiration to everyone who knows him.

The role of LRCS in supporting KC and his family is to connect them with the community and resources. As Patti commented, "I would never had known where to turn without LRCS. They connected me with the help we needed to reorganize our lives and make appropriate decisions, not only for KC's life but also for our family. Without LRCS, I would have been lost."

*"My life has certainly
changed, but it is great!"*

KC's personality, humor, enthusiasm and leadership continues to shine. Due to his sheer determination to succeed, and the strong support of his family, friends, and community, KC has made amazing progress in reaching his goals. He now holds three jobs - assistant golf pro at Owl's Nest, waiter at Loon Mountain Restaurant and an owner of Boomerang Used Furniture store in Plymouth, a cooperative business started by LRCS. He owns his own condo and has his driver's license. All of this was unthinkable just a few years ago.

**"I want to share my story to inspire
other people to seek their full potential
no matter what happens."**



**Kurt 'KC' Christensen will be
a featured speaker at the
2017 LRCS Annual Celebration
Thursday, April 13, 2017
Please mark your calendar!**

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