

# About Brian Jacobson

Brian is 42 years old. He lives in San Rafael, CA with his wife Therese (37), plus daughters Haley (9) and Taylor (5).

He's been an award-winning graphic designer/art director for 19 years and has his own firm, called Focus Design ([www.focusd.com](http://www.focusd.com)) in the same town where he lives. Some of his clients have included Mary's Pizza Shack, Motorola, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Sony and Syska Hennessy.

## **Background of His Accident.**

While his family was celebrating Splash Day at the Terra Linda Community Pool in San Rafael on March 6, 2004, Brian was skiing in Lake Tahoe. That day, he had a life-changing ski accident.

After spending five months in 3 hospitals in intensive care from Reno to San Jose and a rehabilitation unit in Vallejo, he came home in August.

Unfortunately, he's been diagnosed as a quadriplegic. With the passing of Christopher Reeves from a spinal cord injury, Brian's resolve to walk again is stronger than ever.

## **Fighting the Good Fight.**

But this dubious title hasn't stopped his determination to fight the good fight to regain some of his mobility. He has been working with physical and occupational therapists five days a week and is making remarkable progress.

As the sole provider for his family, Brian wants to get back to work as a talented graphic designer. So he can continue to make a living to support his family, here is a summary of his costs and equipment needs:

- His health care from March has cost well over a million dollars. Though his health care insurance has paid the vast majority of this amount, these fees continue to mount.
- He needs a handicapped van so he can get to work, go to see his clients, travel to his daughters school and attend their sports activities. Because Brian is 6'3, he needs a full size van and a new van would cost \$50-60,000; a used van would cost approximately \$40,000.

- His home's master bathroom needs to be totally remodeled to accommodate his wheelchair. Materials will cost approximately \$15,000.
- He needs a special shower chair, which will cost between \$800 and \$1,400 (with no coverage from his health insurance).
- A custom-made wheelchair must be designed for his needs. His custom cruiser will cost upwards of \$18,000 (his health care insurance will pay 80% of this cost).
- He needs ongoing cash to pay for daily home care and physical therapy (which will not be supplemented by his health care insurance).

As you can see, Brian has an uphill battle -- to regain his strength, to reclaim his career; to gain his mobility; to become self-sufficient again; and to literally get back on his feet.

### **Two Ways To Help.**

There are two accounts that have been opened for the direct benefit of purchasing equipment, nursing time, and housing materials. All of your donation dollars will go directly to real costs for Brian; no added management fees.

The accounts are as follows:

- 1) **Bear Stearns/FBO KM Foundation**, c/o Jim Brown, 1381 Knopp School Road, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. This account is a non-profit and will qualify for tax purposes (Tax ID#: 33-0732645). Make checks payable to Bear Stearns/FBO KM Foundation, but write "Brian Jacobson/Season of Sharing" in the memo area).
- 2) **The Brian Jacobson Fund**, c/o Exchange Bank, 720 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol, CA 94572. This account is *not* a non-profit, but is managed by a family member. It has been and will be used for the purchases of home improvements. Again, please write "Brian Jacobson/Season of Sharing" in your check's memo area.

As you can see, Brian has a great many needs: a van, a wheelchair, a new bathroom, continuous physical therapy, and home care help. Any and all donations are greatly and sincerely appreciated.

### **Making a Positive Contribution.**

Helping Brian is an excellent way for all of us to make a positive, tangible contribution to his ultimate recovery. As Brian, Therese and their children make heroic efforts to create some normalcy out of this horrific tragedy, it would lessen their "worry load" if we can make a dent in their financial burden.

If you have any questions about giving for Brian's cause, please contact his wife Therese Jacobson @ [jacobson771@comcast.net](mailto:jacobson771@comcast.net).