

Brian Jacobson's Speech at the November 6, 2004 Fundraiser

Therese & I want to thank all of you for being here tonight and we want to thank The Orcas Swim Team, St Isabella's Church, San Francisco Bay Coffee Company and all of the donors who couldn't be here, but have shown their support for our cause.

We also want to express our deep appreciation to a special group of people known as "Team Jacobson", Bart Saling, Gil, Zeimer, Jerry & Carol O'Connell, Jim Rogers, Rose Chavira, Carol Oakes, Lisa Mallen and Joyce Henderson and all of the volunteers who've made this special event possible. Your emotional and financial support are making a huge difference in our lives.

You know, we're constantly being bombarded by the media with the negative side of humanity, but when you witness the effort that has been put forth for my family and I, this only reaffirms the goodwill in all of us. We should all be proud that we live in such a kind and compassionate community. Your generosity is truly overwhelming.

With the planning of this party, I've been thinking alot about how far I've come since my accident and just how important family and friends really are. Especially my loving wife, Therese who has been an incredible life partner thru this whole ordeal and who really believes in the vow, "for better or for worse"!!

When I was in the hospital, 4 out of those 5 months, I was never alone! Day or night someone was always there taking time out of their busy lives to help me through some very tough times.

During that time, I would look around my room and every inch of wall space was covered with well wishes, from cards to posters to children's artwork, my room was so colorful and full of life. Doctors, nurses and other patients were constantly coming in and commenting on how fortunate I am to be so loved. All of that attention has played such an important role in my healing process. And as I look around the room tonight, I realize that I am still not alone!

The road to my recovery is a long and arduous struggle, but your encouragement helps me to keep fighting.

Therese and I will never be able to thank you enough, but in your honor I would like to share with you the result of my determination.

Thank you very much.