

EMPOWER

A newsletter for family & friends



Turnstone

WINTER/SPRING
2012



Great strides

Kristin Everett

Close to death, her body broken in a car accident less than a year ago, Kristin Everett is walking again after receiving therapy at Turnstone.

If there's one constant when it comes to disabilities, it's that no one is immune, even the young and physically fit. Take Kristin Everett, for example.

Just 21 years old last spring, Kristin was loving life. She'd graduated from Adams Central High School in 2008 after excelling as a swimmer—the 100-meter butterfly was her favorite event—and as a member of the volleyball team. She started on the varsity volleyball team as a freshman, and Adams Central went all the way to the Class 2A final four when she was a sophomore. After graduation, Kristin studied to be a surgical technician and landed a position with the Cataract and Laser Institute in Fort Wayne. She was engaged to be married, and remained an avid swimmer.

Then, on the evening of May 13, 2011, Kristin's world changed forever. She and her fiancé, Drake Hill, were on their way to a party. They were traveling down a familiar Adams County rural road when they were involved in a two-car collision. Drake died at the scene. Kristin, barely clinging to life, was airlifted to Lutheran Hospital.

Kristin underwent nearly a dozen surgical procedures in the days immediately following the accident. She'd suffered head trauma. Her pelvis was broken in six places, and she had a fractured left forearm and left femur. Multiple trauma to her lower left leg necessitated an above-the-knee amputation. Kristin also suffered severe nerve damage to her lower right leg.

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But Kristin persevered, and once she was out of danger, began to contemplate her future.

"The doctors said I would walk again eventually," Kristin says. "The real challenge was overcoming the nerve damage. I couldn't move my toes on my right foot, and I didn't have any feeling there. The doctors said there were no guarantees that I would get that feeling and movement back. At the same time, I had very sharp pains in my legs."

Kristin began outpatient therapy at another facility, but soon exhausted her insurance benefits. When she first came to Turnstone in September, Kristin had progressed to taking steps with a wheeled walker, but she was still using a wheelchair as her chief means of mobility.

At Turnstone, Kristin came under the care of physical therapist Marilyn Wedler, manager of adult therapy. "When I first met Kristin, she asked me how long it would be before she could walk without an assistive device," Marilyn recalls. "I told her it might be possible after a month of therapy."

The focus of Kristin's therapy became increasing the strength in her left leg and core, and on improving her balance and gait.

"It was in late November, almost one month to the day after we first met, that Kristin took her first step without an assistive device," Marilyn says. "Then, she announced that her goal was to walk unassisted before Christmas."

Sure enough, it was just days before Christmas when Kristin walked independently, without an assistive device, from the Turnstone lobby to the adult therapy area. "That was an exciting time for all of us," Marilyn says. "And Kristin continues to improve every day."



Kristin has nothing but praise for Turnstone—and Marilyn, in particular. "From the very first time I came to Turnstone, they always made me feel comfortable, like I fit in, like I'd been coming here for years," Kristin says. "The people there are amazing. They help you get to where you want to be."

"Marilyn was the best person I could ever have to get me through all of this," Kristin continues. "She's helped me get to where I am. She helped me physically and mentally and helped me get on with my life. She's a great woman."

Kristin still comes to Turnstone for therapy, and she's making plans. As soon as she has a vehicle—she's ready to drive again—she intends to return to her job at the Cataract and Laser Institute, where they've saved her spot. Rain or shine, it'll be a fine day for a walk from the car to the office. ❄️

SOMEONE JUST LIKE YOU

At the age of 20 I landed my first "real" job as an attendant at the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center, working with adults with intellectual disabilities. I couldn't have imagined at the time that my entire career would be centered on working with people with all types of disabilities. And now I can't imagine doing anything else.

Because March is Disabilities Awareness Month, I'd like to reflect on what I've learned during my 39 years in the world of disabilities.

First of all, people with disabilities are people who live in your neighborhood, go to your church, and sit in the same classroom with you. They ride the bus, drive on the same roads as you do, work out in the gym, and go to the movies. They enjoy the zoo, going out to dinner, shopping for groceries, and working. The point is that people with disabilities are a vital segment of our community. People with disabilities are just like you. They have wants, needs, and desires just like anyone else. They don't look for special treatment—just equal opportunities to live their lives with dignity and independence.

People with disabilities are often portrayed as disadvantaged individuals whose disabilities are limiting. An individual

with a disability is viewed as somewhat "less than capable" or "less than normal." Although there may be things that people with disabilities may not be physically able to do, they become more "disabled" by a world that's designed for able-bodied people, a world where allowances aren't always made for the unique needs of these members of our community.

Anyone, including you or a family member, may face an illness or accident at some stage of life that will cause a permanent disabling condition. It's our responsibility to ensure that we're a community that accepts and accommodates all people with disabilities. Don't view an individual with a disability as someone who lacks ability or intellect.

People with disabilities are, above all, people who share the same fears, aspirations, and goals as anyone else. Because no matter the disability—whether it's related to sight, sound, cognition, or movement—people with disabilities have the right to live with dignity.

Nancy J. Louraine



SAVE THE DATE



CASINO NIGHT

On **Saturday, March 10, from 7 to 11 p.m.**, Turnstone will host its 37th annual Casino Night, which includes blackjack, Texas hold'em, crab races, bingo, a basket raffle, a silent auction, and much more. Tickets are \$30 each, or four for \$100, if purchased in advance; and \$40 each, if purchased the night of the event. Must be 21 to attend. License 126263.

16th ANNUAL PIZZA HUT OF FORT WAYNE BUFFET NIGHT

On **Wednesday, March 21, from 5 to 8 p.m.**, \$1 from every adult buffet and 50 cents from every children's buffet purchased will be donated to Turnstone. Participating Pizza Hut locations include Angola, Auburn, Berne, Bluffton, Columbia City, Coventry, Decatur, East State, Huntington, Kendallville, New Haven, North Manchester, Northcrest, Northwood, Pine Valley, Portland, Southgate, Time Corners, Van Wert, Wabash, Waynedale, and West State.

12th ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS GALA

The 12th Annual Board of Directors Gala is set for **Thursday, June 14**, at

the Fort Wayne Country Club. Turnstone's most anticipated signature fundraiser is inspiring, enjoyable, and unlike any other gala you've attended.

32nd ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Turnstone will host its annual Golf Outing at Autumn Ridge Golf Course on **Thursday, September 6**.

► To learn more about any of these events contact **Erin Arnold at (260) 483-2100** or erin@turnstone.org.



NEWS NOTES

CLASSIC CORVETTE RAFFLE

This year's prize is a 1966 Corvette coupe. It's sunflower yellow with a black soft top and has matching numbers, a V-8 engine, and manual transmission. Tickets are one for \$10, three for \$25, seven for \$50, and 15 for \$100. The winning ticket will be drawn in October. Indiana Charity Gaming License 126264.



Turnstone's '66 Corvette coupe.
Call (260) 483-2100 to buy your tickets!

CONGRATS

Congratulations to Denise, David, Joe, and Grant DeMarchis. The family was named the Outstanding Family Philanthropists by the Northeast Indiana Chapter of Fundraising Professionals as part of the 8th Annual National Philanthropy Day. The family was honored for its support of local charities, including Turnstone. Thank you to the family for all its support.

KIMBROUGH EARLY LEARNING CENTER OPENINGS

Preschool openings are available Monday through Friday for the morning or afternoon

preschool session. The program is open to children of all abilities, ages 2 to 5. For more information, contact Adrienne Lyon at (260) 483-2100 or adrienne@turnstone.org.



HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY BODIES

Calling all veterans! Through the Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies program, Turnstone will provide veterans with physical disabilities a free six-month membership to Turnstone's Health and Wellness Center, and offer monthly dinners that highlight Paralympic sports. This program is made possible through a grant provided by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, contact Tina Acosta at (260) 483-2100 or tina@turnstone.org.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Erin Arnold, Special Events Coordinator
Jama Federspiel, Substitute Teacher
Jodi Ann Intelicato, Speech Assistant
Callie McCool, COTA
Dan Spangler, Substitute Teacher
Ashley Wynkoop,
Pediatric Administrative Assistant

SPORTS & REC DATES

Turnstone offers numerous sports and recreation programs. To see our athletes in action, check out any of the following events. Admission is free.

- **April 21-22:** Power Soccer Tournament at Turnstone.
- **April 28:** Wheelchair Tennis Clinic at Turnstone and Wildwood Racquet Club.

- **June 8-10:** IPFW Wheelchair Tennis Open hosted by Turnstone.
- **July 13-15:** Champions Cup Power Soccer National Tournament hosted by Turnstone.

Contact us at (260) 483-2100 for more information on these events. Check our website at www.turnstone.org for locations and game times.



"LIKE" US – USE FACEBOOK

You can now become a fan of Turnstone on Facebook. Like us at www.facebook.com/TurnstoneCenter.

THANKS TO ...

Allen County Christmas Bureau, UPS Freight, Rescare, Lincoln Financial Group, and the many agency friends, Turnstone staff, and members of the Board for helping make the holidays bright for several Turnstone families .

...

The Council on Senior Services for its support of Turnstone's annual Caregiver's Retreat, scheduled for this March.

...

Fort Wayne Street Rod Association for its donation of proceeds from the Muddy River Run. The gift of \$5,000 will ensure Turnstone's programs and services continue to be available to people with disabilities.

...

The 100% Club for raising \$6,000 in support of Turnstone and the children and adults who benefit from the agency's therapeutic programs at its annual holiday party.

...

Physical Medicine Consultants, Building Contractors Association, and CBRE employees for their support of Turnstone, as well as Shambaugh & Son for collecting Turnstone wish-list items this holiday season.

...

The Fort Wayne Derby Girls for inviting Turnstone to join them during their first bout on January 21.

...

Crown Battery Systems, Summit Power Systems, PI Chapter Psi Iota Sorority, Dream Weaver Foundation, Valiant Foundation,

Huser Charitable Foundation, Magee O'Connor Foundation, Rudd Equipment, Steck Family Foundation, Shoaff Park Lions Club, Mary Margaret Stucky Foundation, Angela & Dick Weber Charitable Foundation, Paul & Virginia Yergens Rogers Foundation, Jack Ewing Charitable Trust, and Rifkin Family Foundation for their support of Turnstone's core programs and services.

...

Exelis, Maximus Foundation, U.S. Tennis Association, Walmart Foundation, Weaver Popcorn Foundation, and the William & Bonnie Hefner Foundation for their support of Turnstone's adaptive sports and recreation program.

...

PNC Bank for its support of the Little Plumb preschoolers, a program designed for children living with lead-poisoning and in need of early-intervention education and therapy programming.



Teacher Miss Maria with a preschool student.

NIPSCO for its support of Turnstone's multi-sensory Snoezelen® room, scheduled to open this spring as part of the Madge Rothschild Pediatric Therapy Wing.

OUR WISH LIST Needed and suggested items

New bath towels	Red, white, and blue plastic poker chips	Laundry detergent	Ziploc bags
Large whiteboard	Bleach	Dishwasher soap	Stickers
Magnifying glasses	Paper plates	Glitter	Tissues
Turkey basters	Bottled water	Divided foam plates	Individual pudding, fruit, and applesauce cups
Regular and decaf coffee	Plastic tableware	8-ounce foam cups	
	Paper towels	Plastic or paper table cover	



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Thanks to all who gave honoraria and memorials to Turnstone between October 7, 2011, and January 6, 2012.

IN MEMORY OF...

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Mrs. Sue Bradley

Meg Bierbaum
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Campbell
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FORT4FITNESS

Are you doing the **Fort4Fitness Inaugural Spring Cycle** on May 26? Turnstone is building its fundraising team for the event. Persons on our team will be asked to raise \$75 and will receive a team shirt to wear on race day. For more information, contact Jen Neher at (260) 483-2100 or jennifer@turnstone.org.



INDIANA CELEBRATES DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH



March is Disabilities Awareness Month. This celebration is coordinated by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, and this year's theme is "Celebrating Community." Now is the time to ignite your community spirit and get involved! Develop relationships with your neighbors, and make your community a place where everyone participates and is a valued member. Visit www.indianadisabilityawareness.org for more information on how you can join the celebration.

dis**ABILITIES**
EXPO 

On **Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, the AWS Foundation will host the 3rd Annual disABILITIES Expo at the Coliseum. For more information, contact Lynne Gilmore at (260) 207-5656 or LGilmore@awsusa.com.



Scan our QR code to visit the Turnstone website.

THIRD ANNUAL ABILITIES ABOUND

The third annual Abilities ABOUND event will be held **Friday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m.** at the Holiday Inn (IPFW/Coliseum). This reception and award ceremony recognizes the achievements of individuals with disabilities and the contributions made by local businesses to promote inclusion, accessibility, and awareness. Award-winning author and speaker Rachel Simon, author of the bestselling book *Riding the Bus with My Sister* (also made into a movie) and *Beautiful Girl* (just out in paperback this year), will give the keynote address. Tickets are \$10 per person and available by calling Fifth Freedom at (260) 426-8789.



Turnstone Center for
Children and Adults with Disabilities
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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805
(260) 483-2100



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