

Good Works

Cliff's Road to Recovery

On July 22nd, 2002, an incident occurred that changed the lives of the entire Collins Family. Clifford Collins, Jr., nineteen years of age, son of Robyn and Clifford Collins Sr., and brother of Stephanie, suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) in a motorcycle accident.

He was transported, via helicopter, to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where he remained until August 29th, 2002. Cliff was then transferred to Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Center where he spent five months recovering and rehabilitating. On January 29th, 2003, Cliff returned, wheelchair-bound and communicating through eye movement, to his family at their home on **Otens Road** in Ellenville.

Cliff's physicians had little hope for his recovery. However, through hard work and perseverance, Cliff has made great strides in a relatively short period of time. Those who know Cliff realize that he is aware of his surroundings by his smile and recognition of friends.

Cliff still has a long road ahead of him. At present he is engaged in neuro-biofeedback therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. At this time, it is vital to Cliff's recovery that he undergoes Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT). HBOT is the giving of oxygen under increased atmospheric pressure, which dramatically increases the oxygen carried in the blood plasma to promote the healing process. HBOT increases neuronal energy metabolism in the brain; can create sustained cognitive improvement; wakes up sleeping (idling) brain cells that are metabolizing enough to stay alive but are not actively firing;



enhances wound healing and stimulates new capillaries. It is recommended that Cliff undergo at least forty consecutive treatments, at least five times per week, at an approximate cost of \$200 per treatment. This would also entail travel of at least one hour each way to the nearest location offering HBOT.

However, this much-needed treatment is not only expensive but far from home. That is why we need your support and kind heart in helping this young adult to succeed. He has so much to offer. His determination and indomitable spirit has shown through his disability. The potential is there; we just need your support to keep his spirit alive.

Presently we are fundraising with raffle tickets with prizes from several local businesses. Our further plans include a Tae Kwon Do tournament held here in Ellenville on September 20th. Also car washes, penny socials, and hopefully, dinners.

Let's come together as a community to help this young man and family. Please call if you are able to help, have ideas or questions on this matter.

Donations in check form can be made out to: *The American Legion Post 111 Child Foundation.*

Any questions, concerns, or ideas, please call Beth Hornbeck 647-1829; Kelly Mansell 647-7358; Terry Houck 647-9142 or 914-389-0289.



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LucilleHand@realtor.com
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28 N. Main St. (Rte. 209)
Ellenville, N.Y. 12428
Tel. 845-647-8020
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Rt. 32, P.O. Box 113
Mountainville, N.Y. 10953
Tel/Fax 845-534-5549