



## E-NEWSLETTER

### January News

#### New Column: Gettin' It Done

*In this column we will talk about people with spinal cord injury who are "gettin' it done" in their own way.*

People who have a spinal cord injury are truly a cross-section of humanity. Some are plain; some beautiful. Some are shy; some outgoing. Some are ordinary; some brilliant. Some are into politics, social issues or innovation; some not. In other words, just like everyone else. They don't have superpowers, but what they do every day makes it seem that way to their relatives and friends.

When getting out of bed is a challenge and when getting through today and on to tomorrow is a feat, a special achievement seems even more notable and interesting to read about. So in this new column we will feature some who are setting the bar higher.

Starting closest to home, there's former Indycar driver Sam Schmidt, now a businessman, race team owner and entrepreneur. Injured in a racing accident in the year 2000, he quickly formed a foundation with the goal of not only helping people with spinal cord injury but also providing grants to researchers who are working on a cure. The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation has since grown to become a leader in the charge for a cure for paralysis.

Then there's Doug Barker, a Canadian farmer with a spinal

#### Multimedia

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation was featured in video and print many times during 2010. Here are some examples:

Spinal Columns magazine: Click [here](#).

Michelle Murray's heartfelt song: Click [here](#).

Thank you from the organization I Believe Inc.: Click [here](#).

Indy Channel coverage: Click [here](#).

Wikipedia: Click [here](#).

***We've also received many positive reviews. Here are a few:***

Day at the Races program: Click [here](#).

Great NonProfits: Click [here](#).

#### The IZOD IndyCar Series Calendar is Available to Order Online!



Proceeds from calendar sales benefit the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation and also Racing for Kids. These colorfull

cord injury who invented an accessible tractor so he could continue working his fields. Story, click [here](#).

Next is Shawn Dean, an attorney (no lawyer jokes, please – he’s one of the good guys) in Minneapolis who takes the time to write a useful and always entertaining blog. To read his blog, click [here](#).

How about Maegan Clark, a college student and athlete who spends her spare time mentoring kids who are newly spinal cord injured. To read about Maegan, click [here](#).

What strikes the reader immediately is what these people could accomplish if it didn’t take them hours just to get up in the morning and ready for the day. If they didn’t need to invent things to make their own lives easier, they could invent things to make YOUR life easier. If there weren’t any disabled kids to mentor, they’d be helping YOUR family. If their spinal cord injury was cured, they’d be working on social causes that directly affect YOU.

These are people from all walks of life, a true cross-section of our fellows. But their spinal cord injury necessarily consumes a large part of their daily lives, activities and thoughts. Your donation to the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation will help find a cure for paralysis. It’s the right thing to do... for ALL of us.

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## **April Fundraiser in Chicago**

We make lots of friends through our Day at the Races program and regularly receive glowing comments.

Some of our friends are inspired to help the Foundation by holding a local fundraiser. We call these special friends "Heroes for Hope". One of our Heroes for Hope is Michelle Dressler of Chicago.

wall calendars are very sturdy, which makes them perfect to take to the track in search of driver autographs!!

To order calendars, click [here](#).

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## **Upcoming Events**

### March:

- **Fri. 3/25: Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon, St. Petersburg, FL**
- **Sat. 3/26: Day at the Races, St. Petersburg, FL**

### April:

- **Sat. 4/2: Horse Show & Concert Benefit, Puerta Privada Resort, Puerto Pinasco, Mexico**
- **Sat. 4/9\*: Day at the Races, Barber Motor Speedway, Birmingham, AL**
- **Fri. 4/15\*: Day at the Races, Long Beach Grand Prix, Long Beach, FL**
- **Sat. April 30: Poker Run/Motorcycle Rally Benefit, Chicago, IL**

### May:

- **Sat. 5/15\*: Day at the Races, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis, IN**
- **Wed. 5/18: Racing to Recovery Gala, De'Amore, Downtown, Indianapolis, IN**

### June:

- **Sat. 6/18\*: Day at the Races, Milwaukee Mile, Milwaukee WI**
- **Sat. 6/25\*: Day at the Races, Iowa Speedway, Newton, IA**

### July:

- **Thurs. 7/7\*: Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon, Toronto Grand**

In her own words, "My daughter Mary is a patient at Shriners Hospital for Children in Chicago. She has osteogenesis imperfecta, also known as brittle bone disease. In 2006 we received an invitation through Shriners to attend the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation's Day at the Races at Chicagoland Speedway. We are a huge racing family so we jumped on it.

Wow! It was such an awesome experience! Listening to Sam and his zest for life and for racing was so inspiring. To be able to get up close and personal with the drivers and the racecars is priceless. You could not wipe the smile off Mary's face. It brought tears to my eyes.

When we left, the first thing Mary asked was, "Can we go back again next year?" I said yes. We have attended four times total. Each year we came back we made a greater connection with the staff of the Foundation and yearned to do something for them.

In 2010 we volunteered our time for Day at the Races in Chicago to help in any way we could. We were at (Special Events/Day at the Races Manager) Cindy Norton's disposal, anything from checking people in and issuing passes to Mary writing out name tags to my husband Mike getting an assistant to one of the attendees in the infield and more.

I was very happy because I was able to give back. We are also looking forward to volunteering at a few Day at the Races this season.

Any chance I get, I love to share with anyone who will listen about the Day at the Races program and the Foundation and raise more awareness for what hard work you are doing.

We are planning a Chicago fundraiser for April 30, 2011 that consists of a motorcycle run, concert and auction to raise money to keep the Day at the Races program running so

**Prix, Toronto, Ontario CANADA**

• **Fri. 7/8\*: Day at the Races, Toronto Grand Prix, Toronto, Ontario CANADA**

**August:**

• **Fri. 8/12\*: Third Party Event - Whiskey Girls, Loudon, NH**

• **Sat. 8/13\*: Day at the Races, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, New Hampshire**

• **Sat. 8/27\*: Day at the Races, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, CA**

**September:**

• **Fri. 9/ 2\*: Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon, Baltimore Grand Prix, Baltimore MD**

• **Sat. 9/3\*: Day at the Races, Baltimore Grand Prix, Baltimore MD**

**October:**

• **Sat. 10/1\*: Day at the Races, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, KY**

**November:**

• **Date TBD: Racing to Recovery Gold Tournament, Las Vegas NV**

**\* Pending confirmation - dates subject to change.**

*more families can have this experience."*

For more information or to register for the April 30, 2011 fundraiser in Chicago, contact Michelle Dressler at [michelle.a.dressler@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.a.dressler@gmail.com)

For more information about our Day at the Races program, click [here](#) or contact Special Events/Day at the Races Manager Cindy Norton at [cnorton@samschmidt.org](mailto:cnorton@samschmidt.org).

To learn how you can become a Hero for Hope by organizing a local fundraiser to benefit the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, click [here](#).

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## Story Ideas?

We're always looking for new story ideas, especially about people with paralysis who are setting the bar high. If you have a good story to share, please contact

[kkohlman@samschmidt.org](mailto:kkohlman@samschmidt.org).

Our mailing address is:

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