

GUSU NEWSLETTER

Board Member Update | Grant Program Donation | Research Series | Peer Mentoring

Upcoming Events

Peer support meetings occur at 3pm the 1st Saturday of every month at Courage Kenny, 3915 Golden Valley Rd, 55422, (2nd Floor). This summer we have added special events:

June 3rd: Peer Group BBQ at Courage Kenny Golden Valley

July 8th: Peer Group Outing at Three Rivers Park - Check out the adaptive recreation equipment

August 5th: Peer Group Outing - Adaptive Canoeing

Women's Group

The Women's group is now subset of GUSU. They welcome all women who have family members with spinal cord injuries and meet monthly to share resources, advocate and provide support. For more information email us at info@gusu2cure.org.

GUSU Gala

The Annual GUSU Gala will take place in the fall. More information coming soon!



Changes to the Board

There have been a few changes to our board over the past few months. Kelsey Peterson has embarked on a journey across the United States seeking out researchers and organizations dedicated to finding a cure for paralysis due to SCI. You may follow her at [facebook.com/thecuremap](https://www.facebook.com/thecuremap). Kelsey is conducting interviews and will be publishing a documentary when her journey is complete. Billy Scheremet is pursuing his passion of helping people mentally and spiritually. He will continue to be a part of the monthly peer hangouts where his passion can help both newly injured and those who have been living with a SCI. Ann Proudfoot is focusing her energies on her business. She will still be involved by volunteering whenever she is available.

We also have added a few new board members; Barbara Mace, Becky Panser, Samantha Drost, Kirk Ingram, Melissa Ingram, Ph.D., and Josh Nix. Barbara is an attorney and we hope to use her expertise to make sure we stay legitimate! Becky will be helping us keep our documentation in order, including our

finances. Kirk is all about building relationships and he and Samantha and are heading up the effort to get our fall gala together. Melissa is helping with our newsletter, speaker series, and providing research insight. Josh brings considerable experience in fitness programs for neurological recovery.

The last change is the position of executive director. As a founding member, Matthew Rodreick has served in this role since our beginning. He has developed many relationships in the SCI community, in the Minnesota legislature. Matthew is a driving force behind much of our success and he will remain on our board, while his primary function is as the new executive director of Unite 2 Fight Paralysis, one of our many partners in our quest to find a cure.

Joe Dailey has been elected as our new executive director. He has been a board member nearly since inception. Joe brings 14 years of experience in living with a SCI. Please see Joe and Matthew's report.

Executive Director Report

Matthew:

Thank you for all of the support that you have provided over the years as we figure out how our community can have an impact on the work to cure paralysis. I'm so very proud of the work that has been done: the passage of the Research Grant Program, the current increase, the Peer Group and the many collaborations we have developed with a variety of stakeholders. We have much work to do yet, but I'm confident that we're moving the dial.

My role with GUSU while diminished will still be active. I look forward to our continuing to build upon our accomplishments here, alongside Joe and Rob's great leadership as well as our new board members. I'm also very excited to now be widening the net in my new role with Unite 2 Fight Paralysis and to bring the legislative model we have been successful with here in Minnesota to several other states, the Working 2 Walk Symposium, our new podcast and many other exciting initiatives.

Thanks so much for your continuing support.

Joe:

I am honored to take on the role of executive director. I have seen a lot of positive changes in the search for a cure for paralysis due to SCI, and am proud to be a part of an organization making great strides towards restorative function and ultimately a fix!

Over the past year, we have made progress in better defining who we are and our mission. We spent several days working with Pat and Pam Johns of Parallel Partners and the Traction Program. We identified three priorities for our organization; fund research, unite & educate, and promote fitness. Our recent success in the legislature proves we are dedicated to funding research. We are also committed to our other priorities. Over the course of the next several months, I will be focusing on completing our business plan, continuing our mission, and strategizing how we may better serve all priorities and the SCI community.



Introducing GUSU Research Series

GUSU will be hosting mini research talks from local and visiting researchers.

- Last Research Series occurred March 18th
- Mayo Clinic Spinal Cord Injury Researchers Present: Our Team, Our Science, Our Goals
- A video of the talks will be shared in the near future

We heard an overview of research occurring at Mayo Clinic including epidural stimulation, exoskeleton training, health and wellness following SCI, pressure ulcer prevention, and Mayo's plans for future studies.

The speakers included Kristin Zhao, PhD, Melissa Morrow, PhD, and Peter Grahn, PhD

Stay tuned for more updates. We are expecting our next research talk to be in June and will share these details when we have confirmed the speaker and location.

News

Minnesota TBI/SCI Bill

The State of Minnesota approved the Minnesota Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Grant Program for \$6 million for the biennium. Governor Dayton signed the bill May 30, 2017. This is a \$5 million increase! Great job to all those advocates who made it to the capital to share personal stories and express support to the representatives. This program will change lives, and we are excited to see what research grants will be supported through the program.

GUSU Research Donation

GUSU is pleased to announce that we donated \$15,000 to the Minnesota Spinal Cord Injury Research Grant Program. This makes \$30,000 donated from GUSU to this research program over two years. Last year's contribution helped fund the ESTAND clinical trial being performed in Minneapolis and development for an energy storing exoskeleton being conducted at the University of Minnesota. Decisions on these grants were made by the state peer review council. Next year's grant awards will be granted in June of 2017.



Peer Mentoring

In partnership with MNSCIA, and United Spinal Association, GUSU offers peer mentoring on a one-on-one basis in the community for those with spinal cord injuries and family/care givers. Peer mentoring can help those find solutions that one might not be aware of and help people adapt for a more successful life. If you are interested becoming a mentor or want a peer mentor to visit you, email us at info@gusu2cure.org.

Partnering Updates

As noted in our executive director’s report, Matthew Rodreick is the new executive director at U2FP. Marilyn Smith has transitioned to President of the board of directors. Matthew has been working on getting a bill passed in Pennsylvania and in other states similar to the research bill passed in Minnesota. U2FP is also in the throes of planning the next Working2Walk to be held in Miami, October 13-14, 2017.

Kelsey Peterson continues her journey developing The Cure Map. Traveling the US, we are not sure where she is today, but you can follow her at www.facebook.com/thecuremap.

Everyone with a SCI is on this journey together. Check out our other partners to keep on top of what’s going on out there.

Spinal Cord Society www.scstwincities.org

Minnesota Spinal Cord Injury Association www.mnscia.org

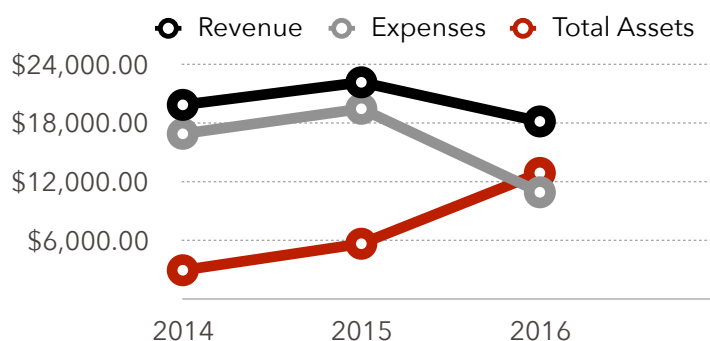
Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America www.mnpva.org

Bel13ve in Miracles Foundation www.bel13vefoundation.org

Annual Finance Report 2016

- GUSU is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization and has operated on volunteer efforts.
- In 2016, GUSU donated 92% or \$15,643 of its expenses to research and community outreach. 8% or \$1,326 went to operating expenses.
- In 2016, the GUSU Board of Directors voted to create a Fit4Recovery Adaptive Fitness Scholarship Fund. \$4,123 was raised to be designated for this fund to help offset the costs to individuals for adaptive fitness.

2016 Expenses	Amount	%
Research	\$15,000	88%
Events	\$683	4%
Outreach	\$669	4%
Office	\$643	4%
	\$16,996	



Join our Mailing List

Stay up to date on current events, advocacy efforts and GUSU news. Join our mailing list on our website www.gusu2cure.org or by emailing us at info@gusu2cure.org.

Ways to Donate

GUSU Website - www.gusu2cure.org

Mail us a check

GUSU2CURE Paralysis
PO Box 27525
7701 Golden Valley Rd
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Select GUSU as your charity when you shop **Amazon Smile**. On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, select Get Up Stand Up to Cure Paralysis as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation at no cost to you.

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Interested in getting involved? We can always use volunteers for our events. Email us at info@gusu2cure.org