

CONQUER PARALYSIS NOWSM

20

ANNUAL REPORT

24



A YEAR OF
GROWTH & RESILIENCE

Driven by Data, Inspired by Purpose

At CPN, we believe that purpose without direction is not enough. That's why we use data to guide every aspect of our foundation — from identifying gaps in program services to measuring outcomes and ensuring quality in all that we do. Our intentional, informed approach ensures that funding is strategically allocated where it can have the greatest impact.

With over **5.4 million people in the U.S.** living with a form of paralysis, and more than 18,000 new traumatic spinal cord injuries occurring each year, the need for comprehensive, innovative recovery services has never been greater. In states where CPN has a presence, over **893 thousand** individuals live with mobility, cognitive, self-care, or independent living challenges. These numbers fuel our mission — empowering us to deliver programs that not only respond to urgent needs but also drive lasting change for the paralysis community.

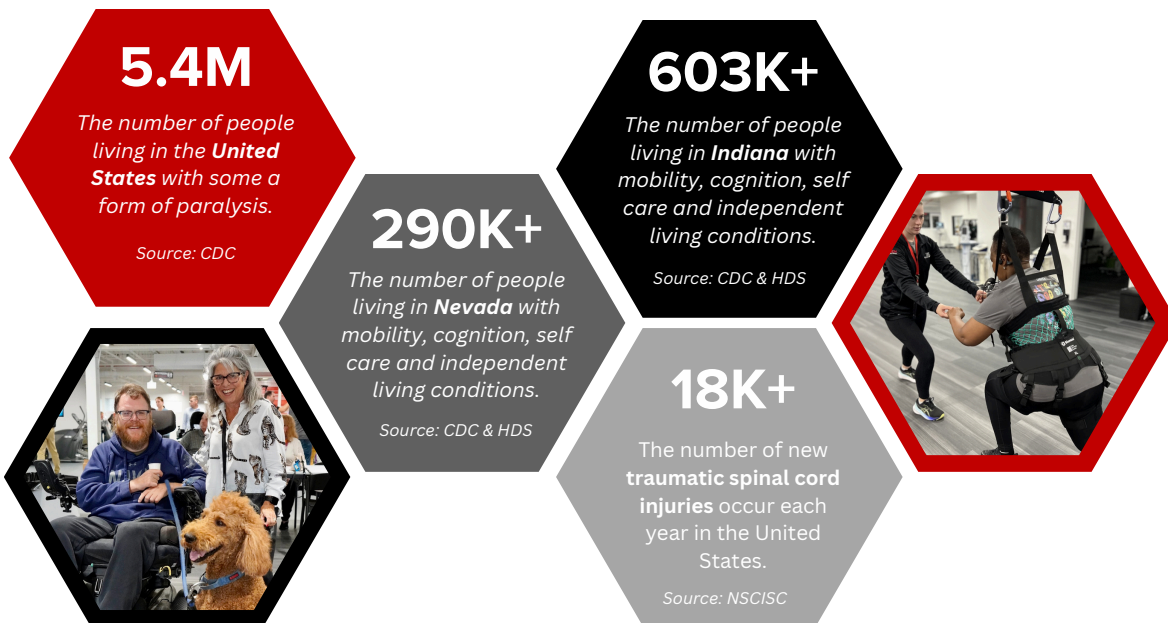


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Welcome to our Annual Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to excellence throughout the year.

Leading with Vision, Inspiring Success

Dear Friends

In January of 2000, my life changed forever.

While preparing for the upcoming racing season at the Walt Disney World Speedway, I suffered a devastating crash during a test run. In a split second, I went from being a professional IndyCar driver to a quadriplegic—paralyzed from the shoulders down. The physical, emotional, and mental hurdles that followed were immense, but from the very beginning, I refused to accept that my life—and the lives of others like me—couldn't still be full of purpose, hope, and progress.

The accident ended my racing career, but it also launched a new mission: to redefine what's possible for people living with spinal cord injuries and other neurological conditions.

That mission began with the creation of the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, which evolved into what is now known as Conquer Paralysis Now (CPN). Over the years, we've grown from a personal crusade into a nationally recognized organization focused on improving quality of life for individuals living with paralysis—not someday, but today.

CPN has invested millions into improving the quality of life for those that are part of the paralysis community. Along the way, we discovered that real change also means providing immediate, hands-on care to help people live independently, regain function, and rebuild their lives. That realization led to the opening of our first DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Center in Las Vegas.

This cutting-edge facility offers activity-based therapy, mental health services, adaptive fitness, and community support under one roof. Over the past year we have expanded our impact with the opening of our new DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Center in Indianapolis. We partnered with an exemplary existing rehabilitation center, NeuroHope, to provide the resources offered at our new center.

Conquer Paralysis Now is more than just a foundation. It's a movement. It's a promise to those living with paralysis that they are not forgotten, and that they deserve access to the tools and resources that will help them thrive.

This journey has been fueled by the generosity and support of people like you—individuals, families, organizations, and communities who believe in turning tragedy into triumph. I am living proof that even after the worst day of your life, there can still be incredible days ahead.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we will continue to push boundaries, break barriers, and conquer paralysis now.

With gratitude and determination,



Sam Schmidt

Chairman & Founder

Building a Legacy, Embracing the Future

OUR VISION

To drive efforts toward a cure for paralysis while empowering people with neurological conditions to live independent, fulfilling lives.

OUR MISSION

CPN drives independence for individuals with paralysis and neurological conditions through breakthrough rehabilitation, collaborative research, and advocacy for a cure.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At CPN, we are more than a foundation, we are a movement in transforming lives.

Championing Independence & Quality of Life



Accessibility for All



Harnessing the Power of Community

A Holistic Approach to Neurorecovery

Collaboration that Multiplies Impact

Fiscal Responsibility & Transparency

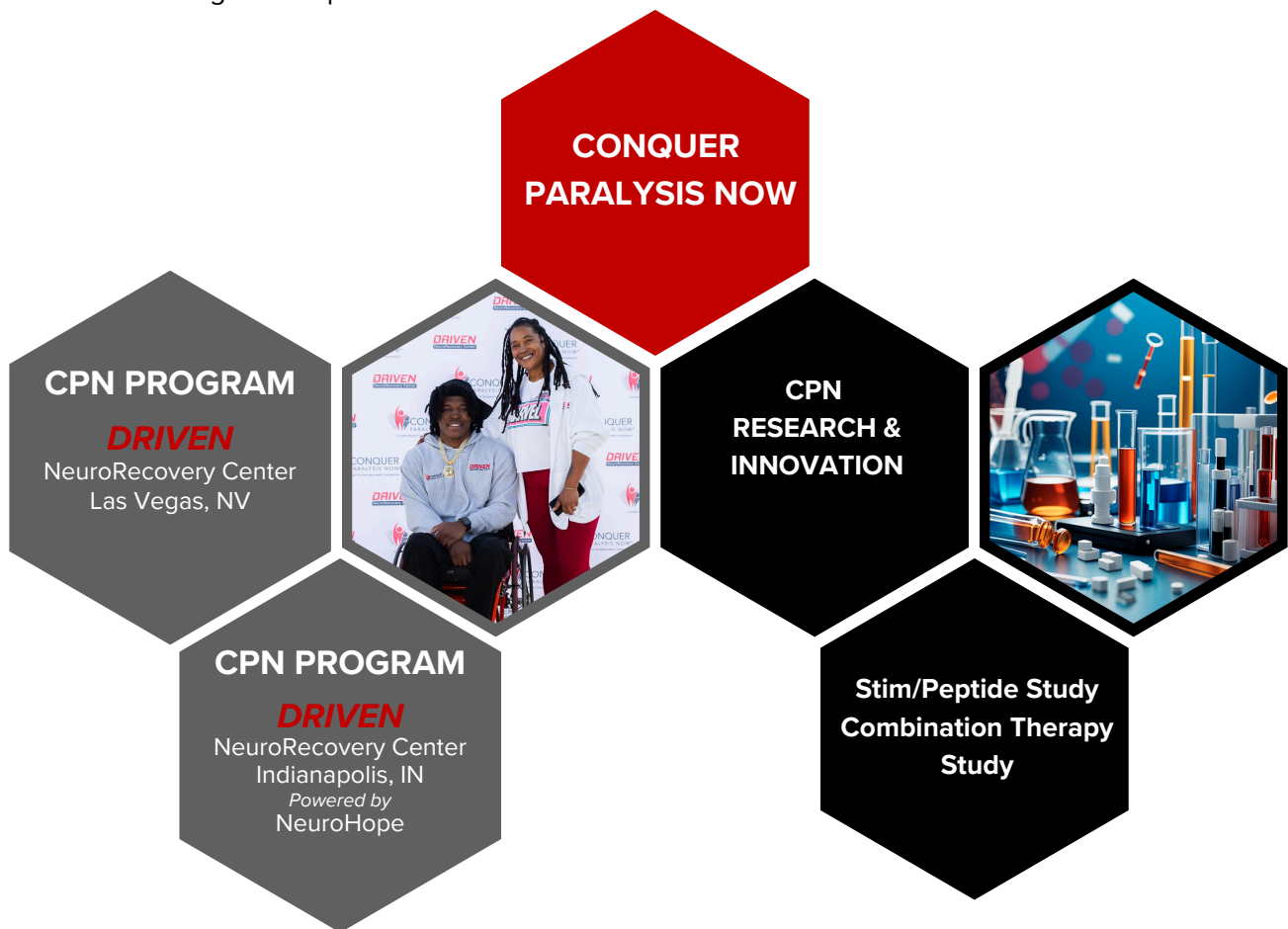
Relentlessly Pursuing a Cure



Fueling Progress, Powering Possibility

At Conquer Paralysis Now, every dollar entrusted to us is more than a donation—it’s an investment in human potential, cutting-edge innovation, and lasting change. **One hundred percent of your donation goes to support programs and research initiatives** to help put individuals with paralysis and other neurological conditions on the road to recovery.

As the foundation behind the DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Centers, CPN funds the specialized programs and groundbreaking research that help individuals with paralysis and neurological conditions regain independence.



Powered by You, Impact in Action

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and transformation at DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Centers. As we continue expanding our impact, we remain committed to providing **innovative, high-quality care** that empowers individuals on their recovery journey. From enhancing our programs and services to strengthening our team and community partnerships, every step we take is driven by our mission to change lives. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful for the dedication of our staff, supporters, clients.

Thank you for being part of this journey—our momentum is stronger than ever, and the future of DRIVEN is bright!

Brandi Kurka, Executive Director
DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Centers

DRIVEN | Las Vegas

2023 - 132
2024 - 140

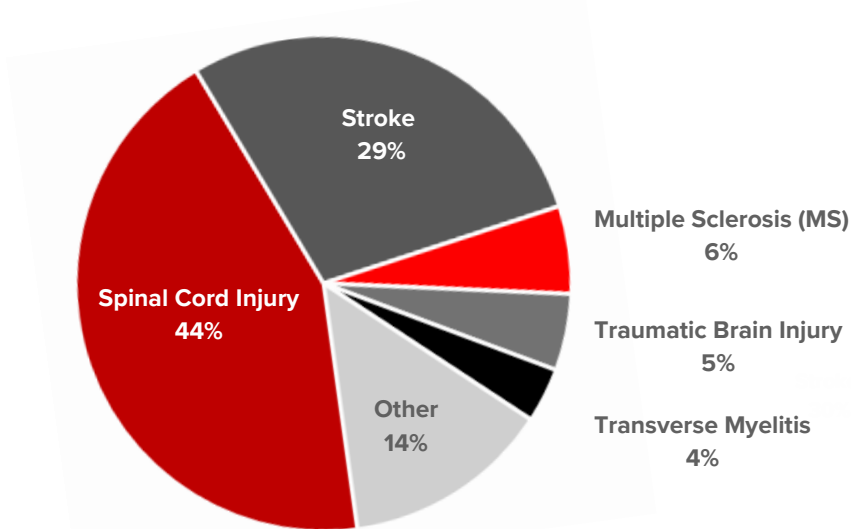
↑ **6%**

Clients Served

2023 - 5,111
2024 - 6,035

↑ **18%**

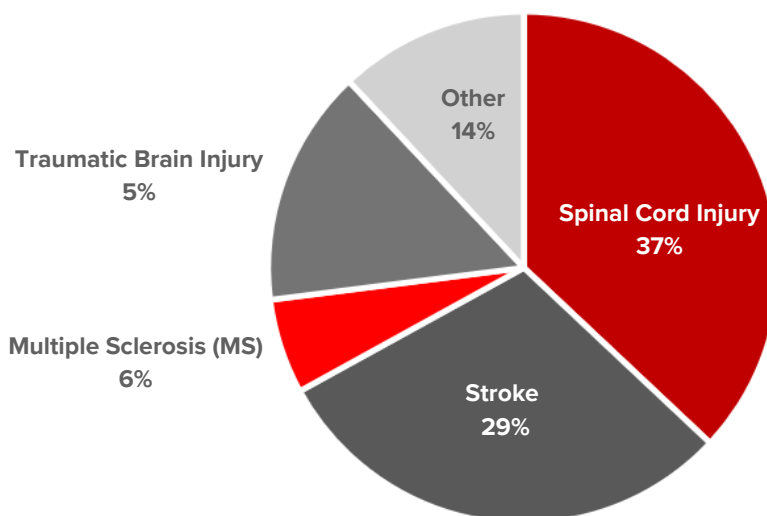
Session Participation



DRIVEN | Indianapolis

POWERED BY  NEUROHOPE

<p>2023 - 200 ↑ 17%</p> <p>2024 - 234</p> <p>Clients Served</p>	<p>2023 - 14,000 ↑ 18%</p> <p>2024 - 16,520</p> <p>Session Participation</p>
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DRIVEN is more than a CPN program—it’s a promise. A promise that no individual living with a spinal cord injury or neurological condition should be held back by financial barriers on their road to recovery.

In the past year, our impact has grown stronger than ever. Our Las Vegas center served 6% more clients, while our Indianapolis location—operated by our partner NeuroHope—saw a remarkable 17% increase in the number of individuals served. Thanks to CPN’s continued investment, the Indianapolis center was also able to nearly triple the square footage that NeuroHope previously operated, thus helping them to achieve such amazing results.

These milestones are a testament to the power of **community, partnership,** and your generous **support** in making recovery possible.

Milestones Met, Lives Transformed

At our DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Centers, every milestone reached by our clients is a powerful testament to **perseverance**, **possibility**, and **progress**. The inspiring success stories below, embody the heart of our mission—to help individuals facing paralysis and neurological conditions reclaim independence and live life on their terms.

These stories reflect the incredible resilience of our clients, the unwavering dedication of our team, and the transformative impact of comprehensive, cutting-edge neurorecovery services. Their journeys fuel our purpose—and remind us why we do what we do.

“

I was born with this condition, Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, while also being born into a pretty active family — in all senses of being active: physically, emotionally, you name it. Because of this, I strive to take on any opportunity that could help me grow as an individual, especially if that growth can manifest in such a way that allows me to expand my independence from a physical point of view. My gratitude towards the donors and towards the whole DRIVEN team is endless.

SUCCESS: Lex can now transfer independently to and from all equipment at DRIVEN.

Lex De Asis



”

Melissa Hernandez



“

In 2010 I was hit by a drunk driver and labeled as a quadriplegic. Today, I am a paraplegic through therapy, perseverance, and faith. I know I will walk again one day!

SUCCESS: Melissa has taken her first steps overground since her spinal cord injury. During one of her sessions, she surpassed the 100-foot mark, walking a total of 175 feet.

”

Acts of Generosity, A Future of Possibility

At CPN, **fiscal responsibility and transparency** are central to how we honor the trust of those who support our mission through their generous donations. This year’s financial overview reflects the *strength* of that trust—and the diversity of support that powers our work. From individual donors and corporate partnerships to special event sponsors, participants, and campaign supporters, each funding stream plays a vital role in sustaining and expanding our impact. As stewards of these resources, we remain committed to fiscal accountability, strategic growth, and maximizing every dollar to transform the lives of those we serve through our DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Centers and the research we fund.

In 2024, we raised a total of **\$13,093,292** to support the opening of our new state-of-the-art DRIVEN Center in Indianapolis, IN, the continued delivery of services at our DRIVEN Center in Las Vegas, and the advancement of innovative research. Thanks to your generous financial support, **lives are changing for the better!**



Focused on the Future, Rooted in Purpose

In **2024**, Conquer Paralysis Now (CPN) took a bold step forward by relocating our headquarters to Indianapolis, Indiana. This pivotal move culminated in the opening of the new DRIVEN NeuroRecovery Center—a 114,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals living with paralysis and other neurological conditions.

With your support, DRIVEN Indy is now home to an advanced **Aquatic Center** featuring two HydroWorx therapy pools, as well as two inclusive **Sports Courts** designed to promote physical activity, wellness, and community for those we serve. These resources are more than just facilities—they are lifelines for people striving to regain independence, strength, and hope.

We are proud of our accomplishments, but our work is just beginning!

In **2025**, we will develop one of the Sports Courts to support **adaptive sports programs** across Indiana. We look forward to being able to providing space for competitive and recreational adaptive sports teams. Accessible, consistent training space is incredibly difficult to secure—especially when able-bodied athletics are often given booking priority. This initiative ensures that athletes with disabilities have a dedicated, reliable space to thrive.

We're also addressing the critical barrier of transportation. As highlighted in the CDC's Disability Inclusion Report (2025), lack of reliable transit is one of the biggest challenges people with paralysis face in accessing care. To help overcome this, CPN will be creating an **in-house community collaboration ecosystem** on the building's second floor. Spanning approximately 27,000 square feet, this space will bring together for-profit and nonprofit partners to provide wrap-around services under one roof - providing services in one location and reducing the amount of travel our clients need to navigate to get the services they need.

These initiatives reflect our unwavering dedication to **innovation, collaboration, and community engagement**. Because of your continued support, CPN is building more than a facility—we're building a future where individuals living with paralysis have direct access to the care, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Partners of Purpose, Pillars of Possibilities

The generosity of our **donors, event sponsors, and partners** fuels everything we do—from opening new doors to expanding our impact. Whether through one-time or recurring contributions, support for specific programs and events, or long-term collaborations toward shared goals, each of you plays a vital role in our mission.

Together, we are building a model of care unlike anything else. Most importantly, we are giving individuals living with paralysis a real chance at recovery, independence, and a better quality of life.

The words “thank you” hardly seem enough to express the depth of our gratitude. Your support has already made a profound difference—and will continue to do so—in the lives of those we are privileged to serve through the neurorecovery programs and research supported by CPN.

Below is a listing of our valued partners for 2024.

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

\$250,000 +

Chet & Sharon Beiler
Brad E Hollinger
Direct Apps Inc.
Hadley & Marion Stuart Foundation
Kenneth & Gail Eckstein
Marv & Judy Schmidt Endowment Fund
Nina and James Meyer Family
Foundation
Schmidt Family Foundation

VISIONARY PARTNERS

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Todd & Sarah Davis

FOUNDING PARTNERS

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Girardin Family Foundation Fund
OverEZ Chicken Coop, LLC

CHAMPION PARTNERS

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Lisa Ardito
BraunAbility
Charles E. Nearburg
Chase Ault
Fred and Patty Hopp Foundation
John Gibbons
Herren Family Trust
J.R. Sauder
Judith Keltner Trust
Michael Borden

LEGACY PARTNERS

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Hulman George Family Foundation
Ron & Rita Hunter
Mitz Family Charitable Foundation
Jacob Mullis

Murphy Electric, Inc.
Nicholas Lamatrice
Robert & Cheryl Sargent
Terry Lee
Terry Rennie
Trent Family Giving Fund
Workforce Connections
Wynn Las Vegas
Youth Opportunity Investments

Minds Behind the Mission, CPN Board & Staff



Sam Schmidt
Chairman & Founder



William Liacome
Treasurer



Ed Mattix
Outgoing Secretary



Michael Kret
Incoming Secretary



Lisa Ardito
Director



Chet Beiler
Director



Savannah Boehrer
Director



Todd Davis
Director



Bill Koebnitz
Director



Alan Lewis
Director



John McGoff
Director



Tiera McQuater
Director



Adell Means
Director



Pam Tondreau
Director



Christine Louck
Chief Financial Officer
CPN



Brandi Kurka
Executive Director
DRIVEN



Michele Sullivan
Director
Advancement & Impact
CPN



Brandylin Cole
Special Projects Manager
CPN



Greg Haslam
Administrative Coordinator
CPN

Gratitude, Collaboration & Continued Success

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this past year, one thing is abundantly clear: **none of it would be possible without you!** Your unwavering support—whether through donations, partnerships, advocacy, or participation in events—fuels every milestone we celebrate and every life we help transform.

But our journey is far from over. As we look to the future, **your continued involvement is more important than ever.** The need is great, the demand for services is growing, and we are committed to meeting that need with innovation, compassion, and excellence.

We ask that you continue standing with us—not only as supporters but as champions. **Spread the word. Advocate for change. Invite others to join this movement.** By expanding our community, we amplify our ability to make a lasting difference.

From all of us at Conquer Paralysis Now, thank you for being part of our mission. Together, we are redefining what's possible, one life at a time.

Here's to continued progress, deeper partnerships, and a future filled with hope!

CONQUER
PARALYSIS NOWSM



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