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OPTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING RECEIVES \$25,000 QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION FOR ADAPTIVE RECREATION PROGRAM.

Green Bay, Wisconsin – February 28, 2022 – Options for Independent Living is proud to announce that it has been awarded **\$25,000** as part of the Christopher & Dana <u>Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center</u> (NPRC) 2021 2nd Cycle Direct Effect Quality of Life grants. Sixty-seven grants totaling \$1,403,071 were awarded. The Quality of Life Grants Program supports nonprofit organizations that empower individuals living with paralysis. Since the Quality of Life Grants Program's inception, more than 3,490 grants totaling over \$36 million have been awarded. Funding for this program was made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (ACL grant #90PRRC0006-01-00).

The Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center has several grants under the Quality of Life program awarding grants in different category areas, varying in different amounts. The Direct Effect Quality of Life grants program funds organizations up to \$25,000 to support a wide range of projects and activities that will impact individuals living with paralysis and their families.

"This cycle of Direct Effect grant projects offers a robust and impactful addition to our Quality of Life grants program," said Mark Bogosian, Director, Quality of Life Grants Program, Reeve Foundation. "Grant funds are supporting wide-ranging projects including accessible community areas, adaptive sports and fitness & wellness, consumer education, peer mentoring & support, and transportation. These projects represent the true essence of our Quality of Life grants program by fostering inclusion, involvement and community engagement, and promoting health and wellness for those affected by paralysis."

Options for Independent Living will use the grant for enhancing recreation opportunities for people with disabilities within our community. Options for Independent Living has purchased an ICE Adventure 26 RS Fast Track recumbent trike with adaptive accessories to make it usable by a large variety of individuals with disabilities who are unable to use a standard bicycle or recumbent bike. The trike offers stability for those who struggle with balance or spasticity. The foot driven pedal system has five levels of electronic assist for those who are unable to pedal independently or need assistance in completing longer rides. The trike can also be completely electronic driven for those who don't have the capability to pedal with their legs, for up to thirty miles. The adaptive trike will be individually setup



with the user by a trained Assistive Technology Professional, come with safety equipment and available in an enclosed trailer so that you can take it wherever you want to use it to achieve your recreational goals.

Options for Independent Living would like to thank the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation for making such an incredible opportunity for people living with paralysis available to the community. This grant has initiated the creation of an adaptive recreational program that will provide opportunities for people to access equipment that would be otherwise unaffordable and inaccessible for many people living with disabilies. Options for Independent Living is honored to help the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation achieve it's mission of improving the quality of life for individuals impacted by paralysis.

About the Reeve Foundation:

The <u>Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation</u> is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for individuals and families impacted by paralysis. By uniting the brightest minds in the field, we are working tirelessly to accelerate scientific discovery across the field of spinal cord research by investing in labs across the globe. Additionally, through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living, the Reeve Foundation's National <u>Paralysis</u> <u>Resource Center</u> (NPRC) promotes the health, well-being, and independence of people living with paralysis, providing comprehensive information, resources, and referral services assisting over 100,000 individuals and families since its launch in 2002. The Reeve Foundation is committed to elevating our community's voices and needs to achieve greater representation and independence. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB's Charity Seal. For more information, please visit our website at <u>www.ChristopherReeve.org</u> or call 800-225-0292.

Options for Independent Living is a non-profit 501c3 organization committed to empowering people with disabilities to lead independent and product lives in their community through advocacy, the provision of information, education, technology and related services.

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