The Michael A. Hughes Society of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Recognizing our special donors who have included the Reeve Foundation in their estate and investment plans
Members of the Hughes Family (from left to right): Robert, Mike, Helen, Greg, Mary, Laurie, and Jack.

It was our privilege and joy to call Mike our friend.

Of all the decisions we’ve made at the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, none was easier than the decision to unite our planned giving donors into a community named for Michael A. Hughes.

Mike was a rare and passionate ally, mentor, and supporter.

He came to us more than 20 years ago, both heartbroken and motivated by the accident that left his son Greg paralyzed. Mike wanted to turn the family’s pain into positive, productive action, giving everything they could to strengthen this organization and advance spinal cord research.

Volunteering his time and business expertise, Mike helped to put the Foundation on a solid strategic and financial footing. When this was accomplished, he and his wife, Helen, continued their deep involvement. Over time, Mike and his family kept close watch on the Foundation’s progress through the scientific strength of its Individual Research Grants Program and the innovative thrust of its International Research Consortium.

Then in 1999, something incredible happened. Shortly after the Reeve Foundation’s annual fundraising gala, A Magical Evening, Mike, and his son Jack, both of whom had joined our Board of Directors, and the entire Hughes family made a magnificent gift that enabled the Foundation to significantly expand its research program. No person, no family, no foundation, no corporation, not even the United States Government, has been more generous to the Reeve Foundation than the Hughes family. And that generosity continues to this day.

Mike passed away in 2007, but he leaves a legacy and imprint beyond measure, and two of his sons are carrying on where their father left off: Jack has a leadership role on our Board, and Greg is Chair of our New England Chapter Steering Committee. To honor Mike’s generous, caring spirit, his name endures — etched in our hearts and on the community of other generous individuals who take that very special step of including the Reeve Foundation in their investment and estate plans.
CARE

While the Foundation drives toward cures for paralysis and treatments for its debilitating health effects, Dana Reeve insisted that we also enrich everyday life for those living with paralysis. We happily do that through our:

Paralysis Resource Center

With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this one-of-a-kind destination is staffed by multi-lingual information specialists, and it maintains a multi-lingual website, online social network, and expansive library of free materials, to ensure that those affected by paralysis have a one-stop place for answers, support, and comfort.

Quality of Life Grants Program

Since 1999, this program has distributed millions of dollars to a vast array of extraordinary programs and organizations to make life more fun, productive, healthy, independent, and creative for those living with paralysis.

Military Programs

Directed by a former corporate executive and US Army veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, these programs empower service members with mobility impairments from spinal cord or traumatic brain injury to understand their options, make informed treatment decisions, and calm the chaos and distress of paralysis. To do that, we are working with military and veteran-focused organizations to apply the best resources and expertise to care and recovery.

Advocacy

We maintain a presence in Washington, D.C. and support an Action Network – now tens of thousands strong – to build relationships with policy makers and educate them about issues of importance to the disabled community.

CURE

When Christopher Reeve and Greg Hughes were injured, there was little hope – not that long ago, scientists assumed that the spinal cord was incapable of repair. Today, cures are on the way, and the Reeve Foundation has played a central role in this new reality by pursuing four research pathways:

Individual Research Grants Program

Since inception, this program has supported visionary scientists in more than 600 labs worldwide. Their work has led to groundbreaking insights about how to encourage repair and regrowth in the spinal cord after injury. This program is literally the foundation upon which today’s spinal cord injury field was built, and remains critical to the push for treatments and cures.

International Consortium on Spinal Cord Research

Because cures for paralysis will involve multi-disciplinary interventions, we recruited eight diverse labs to form this special Consortium. They collaborate on multi-faceted projects aimed at boosting the capacity of the nervous system to repair and remodel after injury or disease.

NeuroRecovery Network

This growing network of rehab centers and community health and wellness facilities creates and delivers evidence-based exercise therapies, like locomotor treadmill training, that are improving the quality of life for numerous participants by reawakening the ability to stand and step and improving trunk stability, heart and lung health, bladder function, bone density, blood flow, skin condition, and blood pressure.

North American Clinical Trials Network

This network of hospitals is making it faster and easier to get promising therapies out of laboratories and into human trials by developing and using standardized assessment protocols, building a patient registry to speed recruitment of trial subjects, and contributing to a unique database of patient outcomes.

Your planned gift will be a life-changing force for the future of the Reeve Foundation.

Through our dual mission of CARE and CURE, we will put your generosity into action, redefining what it means to live with paralysis and, literally, transforming the field of spinal cord research.

Your planned gift will be a life-changing force for the future of the Reeve Foundation.

Through our dual mission of CARE and CURE, we will put your generosity into action, redefining what it means to live with paralysis and, literally, transforming the field of spinal cord research.
“I believed that the scientists were progressing well, that more funding would become available, and that the light at the end of the tunnel would continue to shine brighter every day.”
— Christopher Reeve

Hope is based on the advancement of scientific knowledge and the funding to realize its potential.

Christopher Reeve

Your planned gift is the light that will make our future brighter.

Let’s start a conversation. We look forward to telling you more about what we do, the status of spinal cord science, and the many ways that you can help the Reeve Foundation. These include a bequest through your will, a life-income vehicle, or gifting the Reeve Foundation a life insurance policy, retirement assets or real estate. There are so many ways you can help.

Together, we’ll find the way.