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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACING DISABILITY.COM --FOR FAMILIES FACING SPINAL CORD INJURIES

1,000 Videos of the Best Answers to the Most Important Questions

FacingDisability.com is a new website that uses the power of video to help families dealing with new spinal cord injuries connect with the real-life experiences of others who have "been there" and "done that."

After its launch in the summer of 2011, the website was immediately praised as a ground-breaking new source of information and support by such well known institutions as the National Library of Medicine, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

The website features more than 1,000 videos of people with spinal cord injuries and their parents, spouses, siblings and children answering a series of questions about what they have learned from their own experiences. The questions are divided into such topics as "First Days After Spinal Cord Injury," "Financial Issues," "Relationships," "Sex and Social Life after a Spinal Cord Injury."

The answers are short (most are no more than one-minute long) specific, personal and honest. All have been recorded in high-quality HD video. "Seeing and hearing the person who's doing the talking makes for much better communication than just reading their words," says Thea Flaum, President of the non-profit Hill Foundation, which created the website.

The website also contains interviews with top medical experts in the field answering the important questions that come up when an injury is new and at its most bewildering. Topics include: "Spinal Cord Injury 101," "Pediatric Spinal Cord Injuries" "Social Life in a Wheelchair," "Sex and Fertility after a Spinal Cord Injury."

Another unique feature of the website is the Peer Counseling program, which matches people who sign up with someone who has had several years of experience in dealing with a similar spinal cord injury. The communication is by email exchanges made through the website. The people on both sides are anonymous. The service is free. The website also has Forums, a Blog and an extensive listing of more than 300 "Resources on the Web."

The website was created by the Hill Foundation for Families Living with Disabilities, a 501(c)3 non-profit, based in Chicago. After their daughter, Vicki, was injured in a diving accident that resulted in paraplegia, they discovered that a spinal cord injury affects the entire family. FacingDisability.com was specifically developed to connect families who suddenly have to deal with a spinal cord injury with the life experience of those who have gone before them.

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