

THE JOSEPH GROH FOUNDATION

A Beacon of Hope



The Lighthouse: From Our Founder JOE GROH

Welcome to the summer edition of The Lighthouse! We are in the middle of summer – and that means golf season for the foundation! With the Dallas and Minneapolis tournaments only recently behind us, planning is well underway for our fall tournament in Chicago. Read about these events below. The big news however comes in our lead article, as we talk about personnel changes at the foundation. These changes are all part of a strategic plan undertaken several years ago and represent exciting opportunities for the growth of the foundation. The foundation is also unveiling an exciting new opportunity for companies to become involved with us, and we are calling this the Business Partner Program. See details below. Fashion can be for anyBODY! Says who? Says a couple of enterprising entrepreneurs from North Carolina – read their story. What can we learn from a seven-year-old girl? Plenty. If we think we are limited by our circumstances, this Someone You Should Know is a must read, and will cause us to rethink those limitations. Finally, read about the dark secrets Joe has been harboring about... utensils. You will find them in A Day in the Life. As always, comments are welcome. Enjoy!

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Personnel Changes at the Joseph Groh Foundation

After 13 years at the helm of the Joseph Groh foundation, Board President Vicki Laplant has decided to step down from his role. Fortunately for the foundation, she will remain on the executive board in the role of president-emeritus. Founder Joe Groh explained how Vicki became the foundations first president. “Fourteen years ago I was trying to figure out what I was going to do for the rest of my life. I was only 53 at the time, and while I was physically incapable of doing almost everything, I still felt I had a lot to offer mentally. An act of extreme generosity that we experienced from a local non-profit gave me an idea. The idea was to raise money to help people in the construction trade who, like I, were living with extreme life altering disabilities. When I called Vicki to explain my idea, she thought it was great. When I asked if she would help make it a reality, she didn’t hesitate. Without her and John, (Vicki’s husband) the foundation would have remained just an idea. While I may be the founder of the organization, Vicki and John are truly the cornerstone,” Joe said. “Vicki and John have been responsible for the success of hundreds if not thousands of contractors across the country. Following their career with Lennox, they were able to reach so many more organizations, first from their consulting business (VLE Enterprises) and later through the Service Nation organization. Their accomplishments were acknowledged as both Vicki and John have been inducted into the contractor Hall of Fame in recent years. The foundation has truly been fortunate to have Vicki serve as president all these years, and I have been truly blessed to be able to work with both her and John. I look forward to continuing to work with her in the emeritus role,” Joe continued.

Moving into the presidents’ role is Eric Groh, Joe’s son. At the time Joe was injured, Eric was attending Abilene Christian University (ACU) on a football scholarship. Following the injury, he left ACU and moved back home to serve as a caregiver during a time shrouded with uncertainty for the family. He enrolled in the University of North Texas (UNT) full-time while also holding down part-time work at a nearby restaurant. firsthand the life of a caregiver, and he was better than any CNA we have worked with since,” Joe said. “He experienced firsthand the life of a caregiver, and he was better than any CNA we have worked with since,” Joe said. In 2010 Eric graduated magna cum laude from UNT with a B.S. Degree in Marketing, and decided to put his knowledge to work in the HVAC industry. He worked first in inside sales and later outside sales for Air Device Warehouse. (ADW) They are the Dallas-Fort Worth-based distributor for Titus and Ruskin products (among others) in the applied commercial market.

After a few years Eric was recruited to Industrial Controls, a New Jersey-based distributor in the building automation controls segment. His work there caught the eye of Johnson Controls, (JCI) where Eric became the Sales Manager for the OEM Controls Channel. While at JCI, Eric completed his MBA at West Texas A&M University. During this time, he was also selected as a Top 40 Under 40 by ACHR The news. In December 2021, he was recruited to the leadership program at Highland Homes, a major Texas homebuilder. He has served as a board member on the foundation since 2010.

These aren't all the changes, however. In June 2022, Rick Bousquet joined the foundation as a part-time Executive Director. This is the first paid position ever offered by the foundation. In this role, Rick will manage day to day operations of the foundation, working closely with the executive board as well as appointed directors. Rick brings 20+ years of experience with nonprofit and Association management. Organizations he has worked with include Special Olympics Texas, ACCA North Texas, The Independent Electrical Contractors Association, National Association of Mental Health/Illness, and the Dallas Executives Association.

These personnel changes are all part of a strategic plan known as Vision 22, which was initiated by the foundation several years ago. Rick served as an unpaid consultant to the foundation in the development of that plan. "The objective of Vision 22 was to put in place a structure which will hopefully allow the foundation to operate into the next generation and many years into the future," Joe Groh said. "After all, we know the need for what we do will be present many years into the future as well."



Vicki LaPlant



Eric Groh



Rick Bousquet

FORE: The Tournaments Have Started

On Monday May 2, 110 golfers were greeted by cloudy skies for the 13th annual Dallas Carrier Enterprise golf tournament for the Joseph Groh Foundation. True to tradition however, it did not rain. The tournament was played at a new location, Heritage Ranch in Fairview. Golfers enjoyed not only the facilities, but also a course voted #16 of the top 50 courses in the nation by Golf Advisor, and both Best First Impression as well as the #3 golf courses in Dallas-Fort Worth-East by Avid Golfer 2020. We had a new title sponsor (Carrier Enterprise) and were designated as the quarterly charity of choice by Highland Homes, a major Texas homebuilder. By the end of the day, over \$45,000 (net) was raised for individuals from the trades who are living with life altering disabilities! Thank you to all our sponsors who made this day possible!

The 2022 Daikin Applied tournament for the foundation in Minneapolis was played under perfect skies on July 25, days before publication of this newsletter. In total, 60 golfers turned out for one of the most successful tournaments the foundation has ever had in Minneapolis. There will be more to come about this tournament in our fall newsletter, meanwhile thanks to all our sponsors shown below who made this possible! Now, it's on to Chicago for our September 26 Titus-Ruskin event.



Vicki Laplant presents plaque of appreciation to Chuck Karas, Pres. of Carrier Enterprise South Central



Golfers register at Heritage Ranch GC in Fairview, Tx

On right – Joe Groh thanks members of Highland Homes for their \$10,000 donation



Foundation Announces Business Partner Program

In 2021 the foundation launched the Luminary Program, which is a subscription program whereby individuals can contribute to the foundation's cause outside the confines of a golf tournament. Now, the foundation is announcing the Business and Partner Program, which provides wide-ranging opportunities for companies and organizations to get involved with the foundation in order to help people from the construction trades who are living with life altering disabilities. Previously, the primary way companies became involved with the foundation was as a golf sponsor at one of our three annual tournaments. While those tournaments are still crucial to our ability to help people, we had been approached by a number of organizations asking how they could become involved in a non-golf manner.

The Business Partner Program offers infinite ways that our business partners and give back to our industry in an impactful way. From planned giving (annual pledges, employer matching programs, golf sponsorships etc.) to cause marketing (supporting a specific grant recipient, promoting the foundation on social media etc.) to volunteering to product or service donations, (mobility equipment, medical devices, rehab/assistive technology, labor/equipment donations etc.) your sponsorship will support the individuals who drive our industry forward every day. For more information, please contact Eric Groh or Rick Bousquet at the email addresses listed: eric.groh@josephgrohfoundation.org / rick.bousquet@josephgrohfoundation.org



WHAT IS THE BUSINESS PARTNER PROGRAM?

Did you know that our industry peers who experience a spinal cord injury can incur \$5 million in health care expenses over their lifetime?

Driven by the mission that people aren't defined by their disabilities, the Joseph Groh Foundation is dedicated to assisting those living with life altering disabilities in the contracting and construction trades.

We are the only volunteer-led foundation specifically dedicated to individuals in the contracting and construction trades industry, and we are powered entirely by volunteers. To extend our impact, we're asking you to become a Joseph Groh Foundation Business Partner today.

The Joseph Groh Foundation Business Partner program offers infinite ways that our business partners can give back to our industry in an impactful way. From self-led volunteer days to employer match programs, cause marketing or giving for a legacy, your sponsorship will support the individuals who drive our industry forward every day.



PROVIDING HELP TO 32 STATES:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| - Arizona | - Massachusetts | - Ohio |
| - Arkansas | - Michigan | - Oregon |
| - California | - Minnesota | - Pennsylvania |
| - Colorado | - Missouri | - South Carolina |
| - Connecticut | - Montana | - South Dakota |
| - Florida | - New Hampshire | - Tennessee |
| - Georgia | - New Jersey | - Texas |
| - Illinois | - New Mexico | - Virginia |
| - Indiana | - New York | - Washington |
| - Louisiana | - North Carolina | - Wisconsin |
| - Maine | - North Dakota | |

EVENT & FUNDRAISING EXAMPLES

PLANNED GIVING

- Monthly or annual pledge of funds
- Employer match program - match up to dollar-for-dollar employer luminary contributions to the foundation
- Title, Platinum, Gold or other golf tournament sponsorship at any of our tournaments around the country
- Guidance from one of our board members to assist with planning

VOLUNTEER FOR A DAY AT AN EXISTING FOUNDATION EVENT

CAUSE MARKETING

- Support a specific foundation grant recipient or cause by raising and donating funds
- Promoting the foundation on social media
- Virtual visit from a board member to promote the luminary program (lunch and learn)

PRODUCT OR SERVICE DONATIONS

- Rehabilitative or assistive technology products
- Wheelchair accessible vans
- Medical devices
- Remodel labor, equipment or services

CONTACT US TODAY AT HOPE@JOSEPHGROHFOUNDATION.ORG



WHO WE'VE HELPED

We're tremendously proud to have helped more than 90 individuals across the country in 32 states spanning more than a decade. Help us reach even more!

JOIN THESE ORGANIZATIONS AS BUSINESS PARTNERS:



WHY SHOULD I BECOME A JGF BUSINESS PARTNER?

Disability knows no age, gender, race or creed. We live in a world where the need always outweighs the availability of help.

Imagine having to shower outside, sleep every night in a wheelchair, having to take an ambulance to a doctor's visit or not being able to attend your child's events. These are real stories from real people. Simply put, we're here when there's nowhere to turn.

How do we know? We're a family affair: the Joseph Groh Foundation was founded and is staffed by industry friends and a multi-generational family in the construction trades who has their own experience with disabilities. **Just ask Joe.**

We are the only foundation specifically dedicated to the contracting and construction trades industry. Our industry is our family. Join us by becoming a Business Partner today.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE HELPED PROVIDE:

- Rehabilitative equipment
- New wheelchairs
- Accessible home and bath remodels
 - Ramps/elevators/lifts
 - Accessible toilets & showers
 - Hoyer lifts & shower chairs
- Home repairs, HVAC equipment and new roofing
- Wheelchair accessible trucks and vans
- Driving controls
- Assistive technology equipment
- Medical devices
- Alternating pressure mattresses and special cushions
- Extensive information to individuals with disabilities and their caregivers

CONTACT US TODAY AT HOPE@JOSEPHGROHFOUNDATION.ORG

Disability Insurance Facts

- ⇒ *Just over one in 20 of today's 20-year-olds will be disabled before they retire*
- ⇒ *65% of Americans could not cover normal living expenses for one year if employment income was lost*
- ⇒ *68% of adult Americans have no savings earmarked for emergencies*

For more information about disability insurance, visit

www.josephgrohfoundation.org/webapp/p/277/obtaining-disability-insurance



Sophia Madrid getting into the backseat of a car

Sophie Madrid – Someone You Should Know

Sophie Madrid of Odessa, Texas might be the most determined girl you will ever meet. She had been practicing getting herself into and out of the back of a car at the Permian Basin Rehab Center. That may not seem like much to most people, but to Sophie and her mother it is a very big deal! Sophie is a sassy seven-year-old who loves a victory. Big or small, she is playing to win. As we know however there is always loss, something Sophie learned just over a year ago.

Sophie and her mom were headed home from a trip where they encountered a man driving on the wrong side of the road. There was no chance to get out of the way and the man hit their car head-on. Sophie's mom Clarissa had a broken ankle, and Sophie had a devastating spinal cord injury. She is now paralyzed from the waist down. Those first 2 ½ months at the hospital was really hard for them, but last April Sophie began rehab at the Permian Basin Rehab Center. Sophie had to re-learn how to do almost everything. When she first came to the center, she was in a full back and neck brace. "I didn't want her to be stuck in that mentality of being limited and being unable to do something. "She gets up and fights every single day. She does not quit. It's crazy seeing that coming from a child," Clarissa said. What may seem like a small task to some is a huge victory for Sophie and her team at the center. "She will do things unexpectedly that we've been working on for months. All of a sudden she's got it, and it's like YES. I'm barely supervising anymore, she's telling me what to do." said her physical therapist Paula Diffy.

Sophie is not done yet. Now she is back to one of her first loves, getting outside and swinging a bat. "I don't ever want her to think that just because she's in a wheelchair, she can't do everything she wants to do. I tell her all the time, you can do anything, " her mom said. Sophie Madrid is proof that no matter your circumstance, you are never stuck. That makes her someone you should know.

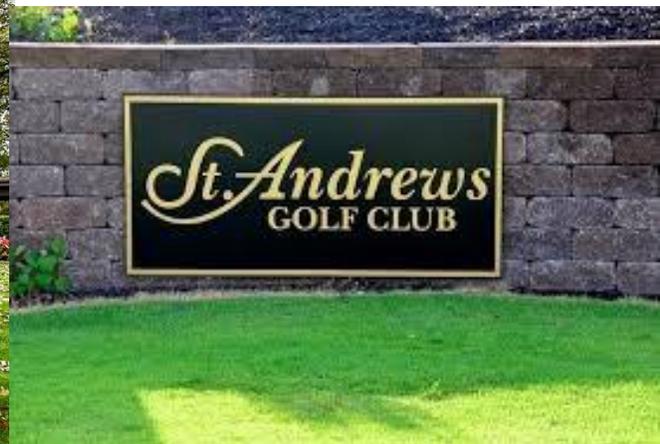


Our Latest Grant Recipient – Elijah Walter

Elijah got his start in the 80s, working for a builder who constructed apartment complexes and nursing homes. Following that, he opened and operated a home repair business called The House Doctor for more than 20 years. A horse riding accident in 2002 caused him to become legally blind. Today, Elijah lives in an older home in Grand Prairie, Texas where the roof leaks and is no longer insurable due to its age. Elijah found us through online research, and thanks to your continued support Elijah's decking and roof were replaced!

Help Us Assist More People Like Elijah!

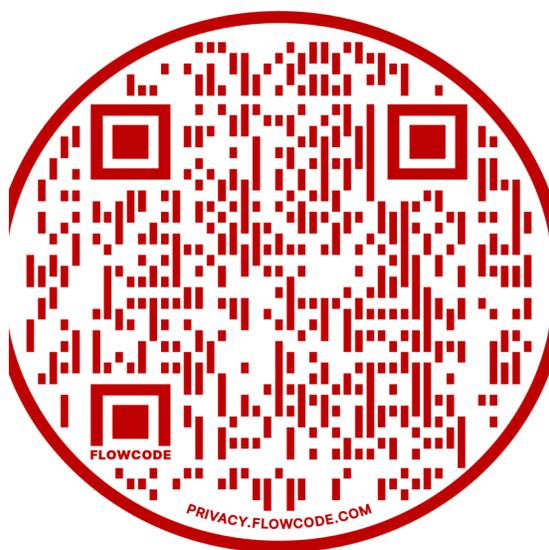
Sign Up Today to be a Sponsor or golfer at our upcoming tournament on **Monday, September 26** at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club in West Chicago, Illinois. Visit our website for details www.josephgrohfoundation.org/webapp/p/302/west-chicago-illinois-golf



Wheelchair Users on the Runway:

Fashion isn't just for those skinny models anymore! A recent collaborative effort between North Carolina State students and faculty, Belk and the NC Spinal According Jury Association resulted in a fashion show featuring clothing and accessories created with the principal of universal design. This design process was pioneered at NC State, where both products and spaces are designed to be accessible to people with a wide range of physical and intellectual abilities. The adaptive fashion show drew on both the art of Frida Kahlo and Mary Grace Wilder and Sabrina Martin's "Sonder" collection. "Sonder" was a semester long project created for a fashion development and product management class. It aimed to show how beautiful clothing can be accessible to everyone, regardless of ability.

Martin and Wilder created looks for 12 models both with and without disabilities. Each design was created to address the needs of the models, creating clothing that was not only beautiful but functional. Throughout the process these designers drew on the principles of universal design, which is all about engaging the user before you even start brainstorming the initial design, according to NC State associate professor Kate Annette-Hitchcock. The show didn't stop at original designs, they also partnered with Belk to create a video offering the audience tips on shopping for adaptable fashion and retail stores. "The three models were all in wheelchairs, and they did a walk-through of the store... Talking about accessibility in the aisles, what they can see, what they can't see," said Annette-Hitchcock. During the event itself, models walked at eye level rather than on a traditional raised catwalk. Each designer included a description of the look their model was wearing and its adaptive features.



Scan the QR Code above to learn how YOUR purchases on Amazon can help IMPACT lives.

Since the event Wilder and Martin started their own company under the name “anyBODY” where they are continuing to use universal design to make beautiful clothing accessible to everyone. The startup was awarded a \$10,000 microgrant from the NC Idea Foundation which supports promising young companies in North Carolina.



Fashion Model at the Show



Kate Annette-Hitchcock

THE JOSEPH GROH FOUNDATION

A Beacon of Hope

Luminary – a person who influences or inspires others.

Become a Joseph Groh Foundation luminary, and give the invaluable gift of hope, today, and every day.

LUMINARY DETAILS

- *Monthly giving program starting at only \$10 per month*
- *Benefits include exclusive content, thank you gift and individual recognition*



Luminary Levels

Shine | Radiance | Brilliance | Beacon | Lighthouse

A Day in the Life:

This feature is a sometimes humorous, sometimes offbeat, and sometimes irreverent look at life as seen through the eyes of a severely disabled person. Management takes no responsibility for these ramblings.

Whenever my wife and I go out to eat, we tend to like restaurants that have cocktail height tables and sufficient light to see the menu with. We like the former so my wife can sit next to me and help me eat without having to constantly stand and sit. We like the latter because we're getting old and I draw comfort from being able to see that it is my wife who is feeding me and not some stranger. Not every restaurant can accommodate these two desires however, so we try to put the odds on our side. We now carry a miniature flashlight with us wherever we go.

Most of the time we in restaurants that have white paper napkins, which my wife likes to lay over me the way a dental technician drapes a lead blanket prior to taking x-rays. Even in a dark restaurant, the white napkin is clearly visible so we generally remember to remove it before leaving the restaurant. If we don't however, its light weight makes sure it blows away as soon as we get outside, thereby contributing to the ambience of the neighborhood. It's the dark, linen napkins that get us in trouble.

It started innocently enough. On one special occasion, my wife and I decided to visit a restaurant that was of a higher class than those we generally frequent. Instead of thin, white paper napkins, this establishment featured black linen napkins. After a few minutes, I asked Sue to cover me with my black blanket because they had the air conditioner turned down to the polar cap recovery setting. My fuzzy black, warm traveling companion is another acquiescence to age, although I'm sure the kink in my spinal cord also has something to do with that. The dark ambience coupled with the black linen napkins however provided the perfect backdrop to what was about to become a crime spree.

When we arrived home that evening we discovered the black linen napkin folded neatly on top of the black blanket which still covered me. We laughed at how we had so neatly made off with the restaurants property, and we jokingly referred to it as the great napkin caper. Until it happened again. At that point I began to worry a bit about our memories, especially after we arrived at home one evening with a white linen napkin.

I even dreamed one night that we were refused service at one restaurant because we could not be "entrusted with restaurant property." I was not prepared however for what was to come next.

My wife and I have always celebrated our wedding anniversary with a visit to a local fine dining establishment. In the years BC, (before children) we would take turns choosing the favored restaurant, and during our years in Chicago we ended up dining at a number of the city's most well-known establishments. The only disruption to that tradition came one summer a few years ago when my handicapped van decided to go topless, but that is a story for another day. For one of our most recent anniversaries, we once again decided to visit one of Dallas's best-known restaurants, which shall remain nameless because of the crime committed there.

As expected, this restaurant featured dark, linen napkins, heavy, fine silverware and a near pitch black environment. We were in the midst of enjoying our entrée when my wife accidentally dropped my fork. She briefly looked for it on the floor but being a fine establishment, we thought it improper to search for it on hands and knees. We figured the restaurant would find the utensil after we left, so she deftly removed a fork from a neighboring table after making sure no waiters were looking. We continued to enjoy our delicious dinner. At some point however I became chilled and wanted to be covered with a blanket. We continued through dessert and coffee and left the restaurant feeling warmly satiated from the fine food, wine and each other's company.

When we arrived home my wife took the blanket off me and we laughed once again as we discovered yet another napkin added to our collection. The feeling of mirth quickly evaporated however when we discovered the lost fork resting on the footplate of my wheelchair. I felt disturbed after the thought ran through my mind that we only needed a few more utensils to complete a set for home dining use. I visualized standing in front of a somber group at Utensils Anonymous saying, "My name is Joe and I am a kleptomaniac."

Since that time there have been no more such incidents, although we have another anniversary upcoming. I realize now that every recovery comes one day at a time, and so I will wake up tomorrow, God willing, and pledge to try and not think again of what a matched set would look like!



Hmmm, I don't have a knife yet...

Thank You Dallas (top) & Minneapolis (bottom) Golf Sponsors



Welcome Golfers to the 2022 Carrier Enterprise Tournament for the Joseph Groh Foundation



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BALL SPONSOR



PLATINUM SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



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Welcome Golfers to the 2022 Daikin Applied Tournament for the Joseph Groh Foundation



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Kirk & Andrea Thorne

LUNCH SPONSOR



DINNER SPONSOR



MINNESOTA AIR

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