

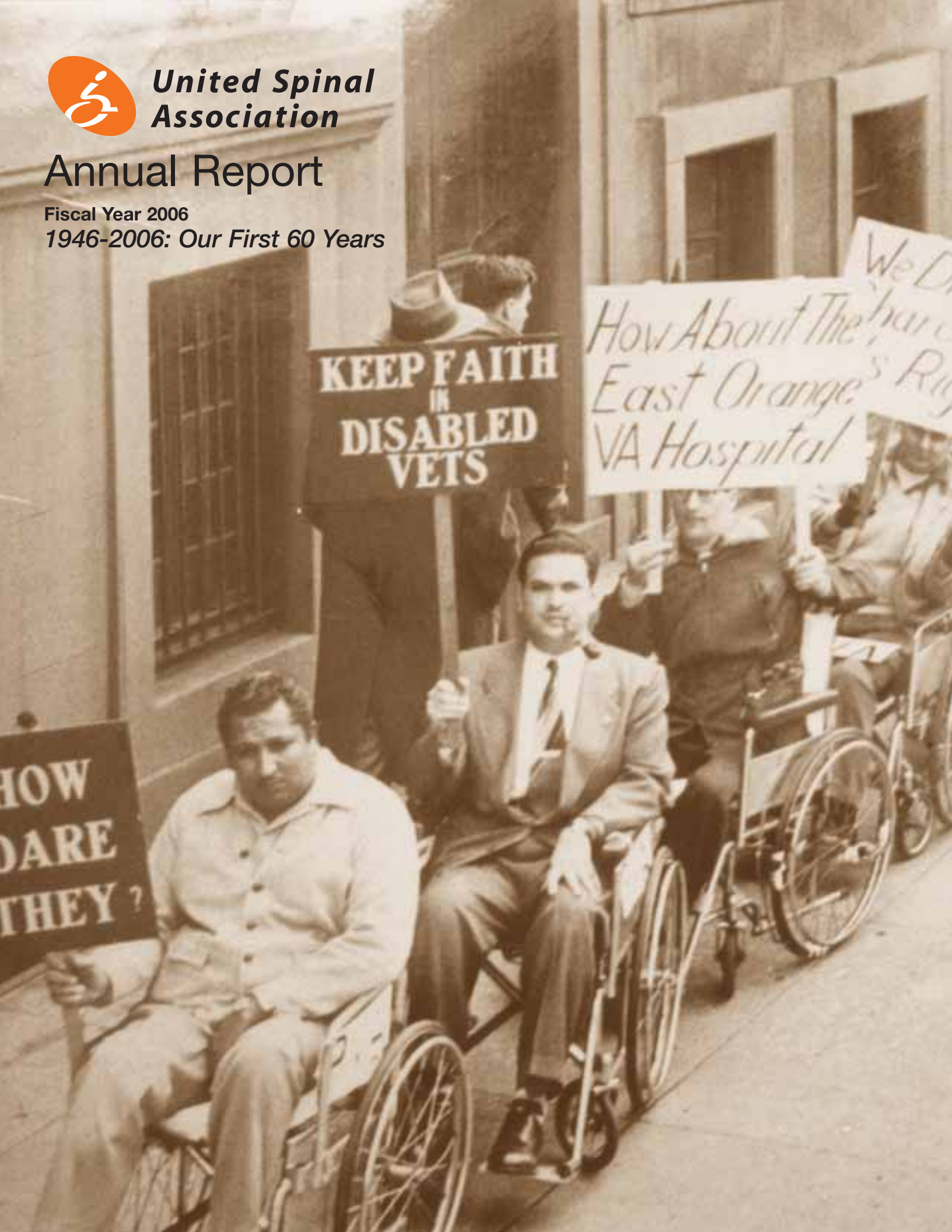


**United Spinal
Association**

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2006

1946-2006: Our First 60 Years



"In my early years with United Spinal Association, I got to know some of our founding members. The fire they lit in my heart and hundreds of other hearts to make a difference in the lives of paralyzed Americans has never flickered or faded. They were extraordinary men and women and to have had the chance to carry on their work and expand their vision nationwide has been a daunting responsibility, but also a tremendous honor. United Spinal has shaped my life in more ways than I can list; the mission and the dream of this organization is inextricably woven into everything I am as a man, an American, and a professional. It has given me much more than a career—it has given me that rare combination of meaning and purpose and joy that everyone hopes their working lives will provide, yet few are lucky enough to find. I was lucky."

—Gerard M. Kelly
Executive Director, 2002-2006
Deputy Executive Director, 1971-2002



Fox 5 TV News reporter Arnold Diaz (right)—the first recipient of United Spinal's *Disability Rights Advocacy Award*—interviews Executive Director Gerard M. Kelly at our 60th Anniversary Reception, May 22, 2006, at Grand Central Terminal, New York City.



United Spinal Association

Expanding Opportunities for People with Spinal Cord Disabilities for Over 60 years

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Building No. 102, Duane Road
Fort Totten, New York 11359
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www.wheelchairmedic.com

Accessibility Services

33 LeoCrest Court
West Seneca, New York 14224
716-828-9139
www.accessibility-services.com

ABLE to Travel

75-20 Astoria Blvd.
Jackson Heights, New York 11370-1177
888-211-3635
www.abletotravel.org

Front Cover: Founding member Robert Moss (with pipe) leads a 1948 demonstration at Grand Central Terminal, New York City, for improved health care for paralyzed veterans.

Director's Notes

Dear Friends,

Anyone embarking on retirement after 35 years with an organization as dynamic as United Spinal is bound to experience a whirl of feelings—pride, fulfillment, completion and, of course, a pang of melancholy, too. And retiring on our 60th Anniversary year seems an especially poignant coincidence of an organizational milestone and a personal milestone.

Milestones are usually cause for celebration and we have plenty to be proud of. But milestones are also an opportunity to have a conversation with ourselves; to step back from our daily tasks and take an unhurried look at the logistical workings of the organization and what our role has been and will be in our evolving mission.

This year, in a series of candid meetings, each staff member was asked to assess the organization on a variety of criteria. Naturally, there was recognition of our perceived weaknesses—our staff has never been shy about expressing opinions. But, across the board, they accurately perceived our strengths: the ongoing diversification of our membership to include all people with spinal cord injuries and disorders; our competence as public advocates; our support for research; and the power of our mission as a guiding force. Most heartening to me, however, was the fact that our staff also saw *themselves* as a strength—they rightly sensed that our collective knowledge and experience, our problem-solving skills, our willingness to learn, and our loyalty to each other is a crucial component of our success.

In a conversation with Indira Lanig, MD, president of the American Paraplegia Society, she described how it felt to work with patients with spinal cord injuries (SCI). “In my clinical practice, each day I continue to stand in awe of the strength of the human spirit after a catastrophic injury like SCI—ordinary people faced with extraordinary circumstances. I often gently remind patients and families that, even though they’ve been dealt an unimaginable, seemingly unwinnable set of cards, ‘Folding is not an option. You’ve got to keep playing in this game of life....’ The field has kept me humble and happy.”

Dr. Lanig deftly summarizes one of United Spinal Association’s deepest beliefs: “Folding is not an option. You’ve got to keep playing in this game of life.” And helping people do this, helping them stay in the game despite everything, keeps *us* in the game, too. It makes us humble and, at the same time, it makes us happy.

I wish the best to all of you for the future. I know you will stay in the game and help those we serve stay in the game, too. Thank you for your support.

Gerard M. Kelly
Executive Director



President's Message



Dear colleagues,

Our 60th anniversary is a particularly appropriate time to remember that courageous group of paralyzed World War II veterans who joined together 60 years ago to assert their fundamental civil right to the same opportunities their countrymen enjoyed and who dedicated themselves to building meaningful, productive lives for all of their paralyzed fellow soldiers. Through their efforts to secure better health care, accessible public buildings and transportation, and equal opportunities in the workplace, these veterans continued serving their country long after leaving the battlefield and today that legacy lives on in United Spinal Association's expanded mission to serve our veterans and all Americans living with spinal cord injuries or disorders.

As a veteran, I am deeply proud to be part of this organization and having the opportunity to serve as its president is a tremendous honor. As a veteran I am also keenly aware that the comforts we enjoy have always been purchased by the sacrifice of our young men and women in uniform around the world. United Spinal Association was created by veterans and serving veterans has always been—and will always be—a critical part of our mission. We have never turned our back on a needy veteran and we never will. And we are determined to ensure that America's gratitude will always be demonstrated by tangible acts of assistance and by committing all our powers to restoring our veterans—and all our countrymen with spinal cord injuries or disorders—to meaningful and productive lives.

The Marine in me relishes a challenge and I'm always eager to be in the trenches for a worthy cause. United Spinal Association's fight for the rights of people with disabilities, for fully accessible housing and public buildings, and for acceptance in the daily life of every community is a worthy cause. It's a good fight and we're going to win it.

I urge you to join us.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Clair Russell Hesselton". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Clair Russell Hesselton
President
United Spinal Association

“As a veteran I am also keenly aware that the comforts we enjoy have always been purchased by the sacrifice of our young men and women in uniform around the world.”

Board of Directors 2005-2006



United Spinal Association Board members (left to right) Michele A. Leahy, Martin Young, Thomas Cooke, Kent S. Hogan, President Clair Russell Hesselton, Executive Director Gerard M. Kelly, David T. Leonard, Deputy Executive Director Paul J. Tobin, Edmund J. Rowan, Franz Soni, and William M. Murphy. Board members not shown: Lyle Dean Bernius, Victor K. Cullen, Patricia J. Miller, and Marjory T. Regan.



United Spinal members greet commuters and distribute informational material to raise awareness on SCI/D.

Then and Now

Our anniversary year has provided numerous opportunities to reflect on our history and appreciate how our original mission has flowered in many expected and unexpected ways. What began in 1946 as a small, determined group of World War II veterans at an obscure Army hospital on Staten Island, NY, has become one of the most influential service organizations in the country. What started as a group of veterans seeking accessible housing and public buildings now boasts staff professionals that advise designers and architects nationwide, help craft building codes and regulations at all levels of government, and recently won contracts to assure that the new Yankee Stadium and Mets Ballpark will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Where our founders battled widespread discrimination against people with disabilities, today our legal muscle—developed by fighting for the civil rights and constitutional protections of our members—is legendary. Where once we struggled to educate the public about the needs and concerns of people with disabilities, today we're major participants in national conferences and workshops, we've formed dynamic partnerships with rehabilitation facilities, corporations, and community groups nationwide; we publish magazines, a medical journal, and newsletters and we distribute thousands of educational pamphlets and brochures.

Sixty years ago spinal cord injury (SCI) wasn't an acknowledged medical subspecialty and patients were frequently warehoused with little hope for

anything more than custodial care. Today United Spinal sponsors the largest SCI conference in the nation and we have helped create and support three professional associations devoted to the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with SCI—the American Paraplegia Society, the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers, and the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Nurses. Today we share the fruits of over \$50 million invested in cutting edge research from individual scientists at universities and hospitals across the nation, as well as internationally renowned centers at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center and the Center for Neuroscience and Regeneration Research at Yale University School of Medicine.

Where a few dozen veterans gathered occasionally to play wheelchair basketball, today we conduct adaptive sports competitions and instructional clinics around the country in softball, tennis, track and field, rugby, target shooting, bowling, archery, skiing, sled hockey, handcycling, football, and basketball. And we've negotiated sponsoring partnerships with many professional sports franchises.

Where our founders learned to repair their own wheelchairs, today we have a fleet of repair trucks and trained service technicians dispatched directly to member homes and VA hospitals in the Northeast. And we sell all makes and models of manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, scooters, and accessories.

Finally, where we were once a small regional veterans group, today—in addition to serving more veterans than ever before—we've become a national organization serving people of all ages with any type of spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D). With your help, we expect even greater accomplishments in our next 60 years.

Below are some highlights of Fiscal Year 2006.

Public Policy Consolidates

This year we consolidated our Jackson Heights, NY-based Legislation staff and our Washington, DC-based Public Policy unit at new offices located in Silver Spring, MD. By grouping all staffers involved in legislative and public policy issues in one location close to the nation's capitol enables us to work more closely with coalitions of veterans and disability groups.

A significant achievement this year was the introduction in Congress of the Medicare Independent Living Act of 2006 which, if enacted, would enable a Medicare beneficiary to receive a power-operated wheelchair for both in the home and in the larger community. Current policy allows a Medicare beneficiary to qualify for a power chair only if it is

needed to move around inside the individual's home. If the power equipment is necessary to ambulate in the community, but a manual chair would suffice at home, the power chair is denied.

United Spinal's leadership and timely involvement helped to defeat a legislative provision that would have given health insurance companies first claim to damages received by an injured victim from a negligent party. This destructive provision would have deprived many persons with catastrophic injuries as a result of negligence from receiving just and adequate compensation for future medical expenses.

We also lobbied Congress successfully for the passage of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, but this important bill was ultimately vetoed by the president. Last year, United Spinal also launched the "Taxis for All—North America" project to inform individuals and disability groups throughout the continent about the benefits of wheelchair-accessible taxis and to elevate advocacy on the local level toward broader accessible taxicab service. One of our attorneys, co-author of a New York City Bar Association report in support of a fully accessible taxi system, was named chair of the Bar Association's Committee on Legal Issues Affecting Persons with Disabilities and two staff attorneys are participating on a larger internal working group preparing the online accessible taxi advocacy project—www.taxisforallNA.org.

Our General Counsel's office entered into a final settlement agreement in a two-year-old Washington, DC parking case. Accessible parking meters, and an accessible route to such meters, will be added on every block face that contains meters in the city. The issue of reciprocity with other state accessible parking permits was dismissed without prejudice since legislation before the Washington, DC City Council allowing reciprocity was introduced in December of 2005 and is on the threshold of being enacted.

Comments were submitted in response to the United States Department of Transportation's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning use of medical oxygen and portable respiration assistive devices on airlines. Our association continued last year to be a main source of information for members and friends about the Air Carrier Access Act's provisions. Staff also participated as a member of the U.S. Access Board's Courthouse Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Throughout the year, United Spinal engaged in a systematic expansion of the number and geographic location of VA-accredited national service officers (NSOs) to represent veterans and their families in claims for VA pension, compensation, and health care-related benefits. We achieved this important goal through strategic alliances with national veterans service organizations and state and county

departments of veterans affairs. We also developed and implemented a veterans service representative training and support program to ensure that our service officers are fully equipped to provide our clients with the most efficient and effective representation possible.

United Spinal's outreach encompassed visits with hundreds of patients in both VA and military hospitals across the nation to address health care issues and VA benefits. We filed approximately 700 claims for VA pension and disability compensation and we recovered about \$3.8 million in annual and retroactive benefit awards on behalf of our veteran clients.

Boosting Awareness

Marketing & Communications organized our 60th Anniversary Reception on May 22nd at Grand Central Terminal in New York City and, with over 100 specially invited guests and hosted by General Counsel Jim Weisman, the event reviewed our milestones and rededicated our efforts to serving people with SCI/D. Fox-5 News commentator Arnold Diaz was honored with the first *Disability Rights Advocacy Award* and guests also included Matt Sapolin, director of the Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities, and representatives of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. A special commemorative edition of our monthly member magazine was distributed and 60th Anniversary copies of *Disability Etiquette* were provided free to commuters.

One week after the anniversary reception, we returned to Grand Central to stage "Spinal Cord Disability Awareness Day," an all-day expo in Vanderbilt Hall. Bringing like-minded organizations such as the National MS Society and the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital together with United Spinal's member services divisions—as well as a wheelchair rap group and regular viewings of *Murderball*—passing commuters were treated to a rich, informative, and entertaining experience that showcased United Spinal at its best. Capping the day was the donation of a \$250,000 check to the Fallen Heroes Fund by United Spinal and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Another significant step toward getting our message across was a radical re-design of our monthly member magazine *Orbit* and a decision to change the name of the publication back to its original, more descriptive title, *Action*. The design went from two-colors to four-colors, the number of pages was increased, more readable and varied fonts were introduced, page layout was "opened up" to make it easier to scan, and an Editorial Calendar was established for the first time, making the publication much more attractive to advertisers. We've also

introduced a new feature spotlighting individual members each month. These "mini-profiles" help us introduce members to each other and open the possibility of a more active dialogue and improved communication among the entire United Spinal family.

In November, Marketing & Communications also launched our first, in-house e-newsletter, *Here's What's Rollin'*, providing a unique new forum for staff members. This monthly electronic publication includes policy changes, new initiatives and other company announcements, as well as personnel changes, staff news, profiles of our different departments, and periodic spotlights on individual staffers.

The *Motorsports* program was launched with the dual goal of promoting awareness of United Spinal and spreading the word about adaptive automotive controls through partnering with amateur and professional drivers willing to add the United Spinal logo to their racecars. A complementary program, *Motorsafe*, will provide facts, tip sheets, and a brochure promoting safe driving habits for all types of traditional and recreational motor vehicles.

Finally, a professional video company, Bright Light Agency, Inc., was recruited to create a compelling short film explaining who we are and what our mission entails, narrated by popular Hollywood film star Michael York. The DVD, called *Living in Motion*, will function as an informative marketing tool and an effective educational presentation when addressing potential donors, partners, and related service organizations nationwide.

Increasing Membership

Outreach & Member Programs—incorporating all membership-related activity and Sports & Recreation—boosted public awareness through active participation as workshop presenters and exhibitors at the World Congress on Disabilities, the White House Conference on Aging, the Abilities Expo, the National Association of Realtors, the National Council on Independent Living, and the Consortium of MS Centers. In FY 2006 we added 1,685 members bringing our total members to 7,616. We now have members in every state across the nation.

The Membership team also forged partnerships with rehabilitation facilities, corporations, and community organizations across the country. Through these partnerships, United Spinal has received vital support in spreading our message and increasing our membership. Community outreach activities included Kids Sports Clinics, and public speaking engagements on spinal cord safety programs such as "Stay Safe" and "Think First" at elementary, middle, and high schools, and local community groups. Numerous self-advocacy trainings and workshops

United Spinal founding member Sam Penepinto, 78, and one of our newest members, Nia Best, age 7.





Architectural renderings of the new Yankee Stadium, above, in the Bronx, NY, and the new Mets ballpark, Citi Field, in Flushing, NY. United Spinal's Accessibility Services division was awarded contracts to ensure accessibility for all fans at both new facilities. The parks are scheduled for completion by Opening Day, 2009.



were held at local rehabilitation centers and support groups and we have significantly expanded our “Disability Etiquette” training program for corporate and community entities.

Initiatives launched in FY 2006 that will expand in 2007 include:

- *Lunch & Learn*: An educational series designed to inform and enlighten members and staff on relevant issues, both medical and social, affecting our constituency.
- *Ambassador Volunteer Program*: This initiative aims to get our members more involved by encouraging them to take an active role in raising public awareness about United Spinal in their hometowns and cities.
- *Partnership Activity*: We continue to develop working partnerships with various entities in the business, non-profit, and rehab community across the country.

In FY 2006 we also made our sports clinics a priority and initiated efforts to expand these programs nationwide. Looking to build on the success of the clinics in FY 2007, the Sports & Recreation department is seeking to expose more individuals with disabilities to the benefits of sports, especially youths. By reaching youngsters with SCI/D at an early age, we can help instill a lifelong love of sports, a solid base of self-esteem, and the personal confidence these young people will need to grow and adjust to disability. These programs conclusively demonstrate how the power of teamwork and the joy of sports can ignite a child’s spirit and we’re determined to help make adaptive sports clinics a part of rehabilitation efforts across the country.

Research & Education

Another important venue for improving awareness is our Research and Education department’s annual scholarly conference for physicians, nurses, therapists, psychologists, and social workers. More than 1,400 health professionals attended this year’s lectures, workshops, and poster presentations on subjects ranging from battlefield medical care to the quality of life of children living with spina bifida. After more than 20 years at the Riviera in Las Vegas, the 2007 gathering will be held at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. In Orlando we’ll also debut a new conference track targeting consumers called, “Creating Your Future: Living With a Disability.” By reaching out to the non-professional audience and the community of people living with any type of disability, we’re hoping to broaden the scope of our conferences and welcome a larger cross-section of individuals that can benefit from our expertise. By expanding our audience, we also hope to attract new vendors and new sponsors,

thereby boosting conference revenue.

United Spinal continued its longstanding support for research by donating \$100,000 to the Center for Neuroscience and Regeneration Research at Yale University Medical School. Built in 1987 with significant funding from our organization, the Yale Center has demonstrated that stem cell transplantation has the potential to restore myelin and conduction in the injured spinal cord. Since its construction, we have donated almost \$8 million to the Center for equipment upgrades and support of specific research investigations.

United Spinal also continued its financial support of the Spinal Cord Damage Research Center at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, NY and the Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) Service in Washington, DC. A prime example of the value of such teamwork was the presentation of the \$75,000 James J. Peters Scholar Award to Chester Ho, MD, of the Cleveland VAMC and Case Western Reserve University. Ho is the principal investigator at the Cleveland Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Center and our award supplements Dr. Ho’s VA-RR&D Career Development funding, which may accelerate his investigation into using tiny, implantable devices to stimulate tissue health so that persons with SCI might avoid debilitating pressure sores.

Expanding Consulting Services

Our Accessibility Services (ACS) consulting group is also an effective educational vehicle, particularly for raising public awareness of the effect that the built environment has on people with disabilities. Staffed by attorneys, design professionals, certified accessibility specialists/plans examiners, and building inspectors, ACS works to enhance state and federal accessibility requirements, such as the International Building Code (IBC), the Revised ADA/ABA Accessibility Guidelines, and the American National Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings & Facilities.

As accredited providers of continuing education for both the American Institute of Architects and the International Codes Council, the ACS team provided instruction and technical assistance to more than 4,000 design professionals and code enforcement officials throughout the country. Expanding coverage beyond United Spinal’s original states of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, ACS trainers provided the latest information on accessibility codes and laws in new states including: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia.

In addition, the ACS team was asked by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development to

provide instruction on the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Amendments Act in those states where codes are not as restrictive as federal accessibility requirements. Team members also participated in providing online instruction on the latest accessibility requirements through the Center for Collaboration and Education in Design (C2 Ed).

The ACS team provided extensive technical assistance on accessibility requirements via its toll-free hotline and its Web forum: **www.accessibility-services.com**. *The Access Quarterly* newsletter is also available on the Web site and features articles and information on a wide variety of requirements designed to improve the built environment for United Spinal's members.

ACS' consulting work paid major dividends last year, with projects ranging from large public facilities such as the new Yankee Stadium, the new Mets Ballpark, Newark Arena (new home for the New Jersey Devils), the planned Moynihan Station in Manhattan, and Lincoln Center. ACS also did work for private firms such as PepsiCo and government agencies such as the Housing Authority for the City of Pittsburgh, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Analysis and Space Intelligence Center, as well as numerous architectural firms, building departments, state and local agencies, colleges, and universities.

FY 2006 has also brought a renewed emphasis on our popular member travel agency, ABLE to Travel. By streamlining our Web site, increasing promotional efforts, and expanding our menu of discount tour packages, ABLE to Travel has shown excellent potential for becoming a popular member benefit and a dependable source of increased revenue. Our ABLE to Travel unit continued to boost its marketing efforts in FY 2006 by streamlining its Web site and reaching out to members with special tour packages and travel deals, publicizing travel tips for people with disabilities, and profiling the experiences of satisfied members through articles in *Action* magazine and other venues. ABLE to Travel staff was also heartened by a poll released this fiscal year from Harris Interactive, the Open Doors Organization, and the Travel Industry Association that found that American adults with disabilities spend about \$13.6 billion on travel each year and the amount of leisure trips and hotel stays of travelers with disabilities is up 50% since 2002.

Despite the boom in travel for people with disabilities, the Harris poll found that numerous obstacles to accessibility remain and ABLE to Travel's experience in locating accessible ground transportation, airline accommodations, cruise packages, hotels, and equipment rentals position this unique agency for significant growth in the coming years. ABLE to Travel provides knowledgeable travel

agents that have dealt with all types of issues that a traveler using a wheelchair may encounter during his or her trip. An individual United Spinal member booking travel through ABLE to Travel is charged a \$25 service fee while a member and his or her family are charged a \$50 fee regardless of the number of persons in the party.

United Spinal's longstanding commitment to educating the public about the need for accessible accommodations for people with disabilities and pressing for all forms of accessible transportation, buildings, and recreational facilities is paying off as the travel industry nationwide develops a greater appreciation for the size and scope of the disability market. ABLE to Travel is in a distinctly advantageous position to profit from these growing opportunities.

Improving Efficiency

United Spinal's Information Technology (IT) department implemented a new telephone *CallCenter*, which will enable the organization to improve communications with customers and members. The *CallCenter* easily and securely extends headquarter-quality communications to employees working from remote locations, home offices, or from a temporary work site.

IT also installed a Microsoft *Share Point* Web site to support internal team communications, such as status reports, and the ability to review and publish team documents. The site provides access to critical documents from any Web browser, and employees can work with them natively in Microsoft *Office* applications.

The department also developed an online membership directory for our professional organizations, the American Paraplegia Society, the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers, and the American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Nurses. The directories are accessible via the respective association Web Boards.

Together with our Benefits Service office and Vietnam Veterans of America, IT created a National Service Organization Continuing Education Forum, hosted by United Spinal WebBoard software, which will streamline educational services and opportunities for veterans' national service officers nationwide.

IT also modified and installed Microsoft's *Customer Relationship Management (CRM)* application and moved the membership database to *CRM* from Microsoft *Access*. Microsoft *CRM* will give our employees direct access to member information through Microsoft *Outlook*, enabling access to the information they need when they need it, in the office or on the road.

Helping Katrina Victims

United Spinal's Wheelchair Medic took the lead in our effort to assist people with disabilities victimized by Hurricane Katrina. On September 20, 2005 a wheelchair repair technician and an assistive technologist left New York in a bus and a truck, with 30 new manual wheelchairs, two power-operated wheelchairs, two hospital beds, a patient lifting device, and assorted medical equipment and supplies. All were bound for Baton Rouge, Louisiana—the temporary home of the New Orleans Resources for Independent Living Center—to benefit their members who had lost everything in the disaster. Our staff stayed in Baton Rouge for a week, distributing this equipment and making necessary adjustments for each recipient and donated the bus. This effort was the most important of the entire year for Wheelchair Medic.

Wheelchair Medic continues to be a well-known

local center for donations of used wheelchairs and other medical equipment. These items are shipped to Hope Haven Ministries in Iowa and other charitable organizations for distribution to needy persons with disabilities worldwide. Another important focus for Wheelchair Medic this year was improving internal systems and making the operation more efficient and cost-conscious. We're also improving promotional efforts and reaching out to all wheelchair users, offering, in addition to expert service, all major makes and models of power and manual wheelchairs and accessories from our Fort Totten, NY location.

In FY 2006, Wheelchair Medic made over 2,100 wheelchair repairs, and sold 28 new chairs. Technicians attended training seminars hosted by wheelchair manufacturers Pride, Sunrise, and Invacare and Wheelchair Medic gave presentations at Syosset High School, Jericho High School, and Downstate University.



Wheelchair Medic technician Mike Zangari (left), supervises loading gear on a bus bound for Baton Rouge, LA in September, 2005. United Spinal donated manual and power wheelchairs, accessories, and service assistance—as well as the 33-foot bus pictured above—to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Financial Statements

United Spinal Association, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position as of June 30

	2006	2005
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 355,123	\$ 1,136,324
Marketable securities	8,238,146	16,969,633
Accounts and sundry receivables	648,074	339,681
Escrow and sublease security deposits	129,963	159,755
Prepaid expenses	420,680	449,830
Wheelchair and parts inventory	251,763	227,839
Property and equipment, net	1,260,781	1,591,694
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,304,530	\$20,874,756
Liabilities and Net Assets:		
Liabilities		
Payables and accrued expenses	\$ 1,549,756	\$ 2,880,691
Accrued liability for compensated absences	700,462	734,898
Escrow and sublease security deposits payable	129,963	159,755
Total Liabilities	2,380,181	3,775,344
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	8,521,231	14,079,379
Temporarily restricted	75,874	2,692,789
Permanently restricted	327,244	327,244
Total Net Assets	8,924,349	17,099,412
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$11,304,530	\$20,874,756

All fund-raising is conducted within legal requirements of the state in which we raise funds. It is an ongoing policy of this organization to provide full financial disclosure upon request. The latest audited financial statement and Internal Revenue Service Form 990 (Return for Organization Exempt From Income Tax) are available by contacting the organization's Chief Financial Officer at 718-803-3782; via e-mail at info@unitedspinal.org; or at www.unitedspinal.org or www.guidestar.com; or by writing to 75-20 Astoria Boulevard, Jackson Heights, New York 11370-1177.

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended June 30, 2006

With Summarized Financial Information For The Year Ended June 30, 2005

	2006			2005
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
				(Restated)
Revenues and reclassifications:				
Contributions	\$13,611,380	\$ 308,973	\$13,920,353	\$30,874,416
Bequests	562,358		562,358	741,983
Investment income	1,150,681		1,150,681	1,460,444
Program services income	1,317,815		1,317,815	1,462,369
Donated goods, services and facilities	641,300		641,300	1,638,891
Other	221,350		221,350	379,755
Net assets released from restrictions	2,925,888	(2,925,888)		
Total Revenues and Reclassifications	20,430,772	(2,616,915)	17,813,857	36,557,858
Expenses:				
Membership & benefit services	4,240,933		4,240,933	4,843,669
Community affairs & public awareness	4,981,672		4,981,672	9,225,188
Grants and research	2,295,823		2,295,823	3,819,797
Wounded Warrior	2,910,223		2,910,223	2,260,984
Wheelchair repair	1,247,910		1,247,910	1,411,182
Total program services	15,676,561		15,676,561	21,560,820
Management & general	4,197,308		4,197,308	5,414,009
Fund raising	6,115,051		6,115,051	11,582,922
Total Expenses	25,988,920		25,988,920	38,557,751
Change in Net Assets	(5,558,148)	(2,616,915)	(8,175,063)	(1,999,893)
Net Assets at beginning of year	14,079,379	3,020,033	17,099,412	19,099,305
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 8,521,231	\$ 403,118	\$ 8,924,349	\$17,099,412

Thank You To Our Supporters

United Spinal Association has been diligent in its efforts to ensure the proper recognition of donors during Fiscal Year 2006. We apologize if we have made any mistakes. Should you find an error or an omission, please notify United Spinal at 1-800-404-2898. Thank you for your understanding.

United Spinal Association is a public charity as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our IRS tax identification number is 13-5612621. Donors to United Spinal Association may deduct their contributions as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to United Spinal Association, or for the use of United Spinal Association, are deductible for federal, estate, and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

High Dollar Donors—\$500-5,000+

With Our Gratitude

Without the generosity of thousands of individuals and organizations, United Spinal Association could not exist. Each contribution helps us serve veterans and others with spinal cord injuries or disorders. We thank each and every donor for your support.

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About Us

United Spinal Association serves over 7,000 men, women, and children, most of whom are navigating daily life in a wheelchair, and our core belief has remained unchanged for 60 years—that, despite spinal cord injuries or disorders, a full, productive, and rewarding life is not only possible, it is within the reach of anyone with the strength to believe it and the courage to make it happen. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit membership organization and all contributions are 100% tax deductible. For more information on what we do and how you can help, please visit our website at www.unitedspinal.org or call us, toll free, at 1-800-404-2898.

Back Page: Executive Director Gerard M. Kelly (left), and President Clair Russell Hesselton (right) present a check for \$250,000, a joint donation from United Spinal and the Wounded Warrior Project to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. The Fallen Heroes Fund is building The Center for the Intrepid—The National Armed Forces Physical Rehabilitation facility at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Representing the Wounded Warrior Project is U.S. Army Specialist Garth Stewart (center) who lost his left leg below the knee in Baghdad on April 5, 2003.

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