



# National Recreation and Park Association

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NRPA Granted \$12,000 from Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation for *Parks: Return & Restore***

**ASHBURN, VA., April 25, 2012** –The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is proud to announce that it has received a \$12,000 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. The award was one of 76 grants totaling almost \$450,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations nationwide that aid in providing more opportunities, access, and daily quality of life for individuals living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers.

NRPA will use the grant to provide technical assistance to nine local park and recreation agencies on the creation and expansion of therapeutic and adaptive recreation programs for injured service members and injured veterans through the *Parks: Return & Restore* program. Within this program, park and recreation agencies help our nation's injured services members and veterans gain access to sport programs and physical activity in their local communities.

“Research has shown that regular participation in physical activity has a positive effect on the rehabilitation process, self-esteem, and overall health,” says Barbara Tulipane, president and CEO of NRPA. “We are so honored to receive a Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation because it means that park and recreation agencies can continue their work helping improve the quality of life of our nation's injured service members and veterans.”

“The Quality of Life Grants Program allows us to connect with other nonprofit organizations to enable individuals living with paralysis and their families to enhance their daily livelihood,” said Peter T. Wilderotter, president and CEO of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. “Promoting as much freedom and independence as possible for individuals living with paralysis is a tenet of our mission. The Quality of Life Grants do just that.”

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life grants program was conceived by the late Dana Reeve to address the myriad needs of children and adults with paralysis and other mobility impairments and their families. Grants support critical life-enhancing and life-changing initiatives that improve physical and emotional health and increase independence. Funded projects offer a diversity of services and approaches: improving access; providing education and job training; sponsoring organized sporting activities; and much more. Since the program was developed in 1999, almost 2,000 grants have been awarded, totaling over \$15.2 million. Quality of Life grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Award #1U59DD000838).

For more information about the *Parks: Return & Restore* program, please visit [www.NRPA.org/usoc](http://www.NRPA.org/usoc) or contact Shelley O'Brien at [sobrien@nrpa.org](mailto:sobrien@nrpa.org).

**The National Recreation and Park Association** is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more

information, visit [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org). For online access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrecreation.org](http://www.parksandrecreation.org).

**The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation** is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, and to review the entire list of Quality of Life grant recipients, please visit our website at [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) or call 800-225-0292.

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