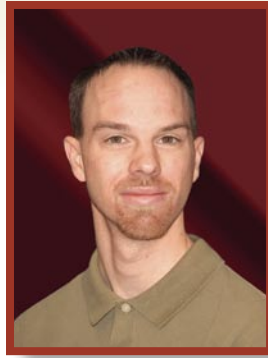


RAINBOW ALUMNI

Brian Davenport

By Kimberly Paetzold, Editor



Brian Davenport completed high school, graduated from the National Institute of Technology and began working for a local Michigan internet / cable provider. In April of 2001, the 24-year-old was unhappy with his employer, so he quit his job and began searching for another technical position. Unable to find an opening, Brian took a job with Pizza Hut as a delivery person.

In September of 2001, Brian rented an apartment and began living on his own. Later that month, while working, Brian pulled out of the Pizza Hut parking lot to deliver a pizza. When I spoke with Brian, he had no recall of the accident or events leading up to that point, but according to Linda (Brian's mother), "He was going to make a left hand turn out of the Pizza Hut parking lot. We'll never know if he didn't see the van... it was late afternoon with the sun right in his field of vision. The van hit Brian's car on the driver's side and knocked him unconscious. Brian was taken to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital where he remained in a coma for 2 1/2 weeks. When he came out of the coma, he quickly began rehab at the hospital."

In December, Brian was admitted into Rainbow's residential program. The decision to send Brian to a Residential Rehabilitation Facility was a difficult choice for his family. Brian's mother recalls, "When Brian was in the hospital, his caseworker suggested that he go through a transitional living / residential living program. I remember going back to work after that meeting and crying. I told my coworker that Brian was coming home with me. He was my baby, and I was going to take care of him. My Coworker looked at me and said, 'How in the world are you going to work and properly take care of your son? Do you really think that's

the best solution for him? You'll frustrate Brian and make yourself miserable! The transitional living program sounds like a good option.' My friend was absolutely right. If I would have taken Brian home, I wouldn't have had the time, energy or resources to give Brian the help he truly needed. At Rainbow, Brian was taken care of well. It's truly a fantastic program, and I just cannot say enough about it. There were never any problems, and my son lived in a (Rainbow) home or apartment for three years. I tell everyone including Brian that he would not be where he's at today if he did not go through the Program."

Brian's evaluation...

Upon initial evaluation, Rainbow therapists noted the following: Due to his injuries, Brian had weak hand muscles, visual perceptual deficits and difficulty in problem solving when faced with more than one task. Regarding mental health at the time of injury, the results of the Brain Injury Symptom checklist indicated that Brian experienced cognitive and emotional difficulties such as staying awake, short-term memory loss, slower cognitive processing, impaired sequencing and sporadic depression when recalling his accident.

Results from the Beck Depression Inventory indicated that he displayed minimal feelings of depression as a result of his injury. "Around here (Rainbow) everybody is happy, and that makes me feel happy," Brian reported. He acknowledged that at times he felt depressed because of his memory loss, "but I'll find a way around it," he added. Brian indicated he

noticed changes in his sleep and appetite since his injury – "I get tired more than usual," he reported.

Overall, Brian was friendly and cooperative during the evaluation. He made good eye contact and participated in a two-person conversation, and he was able to cope well with frustrating elements of the evaluation. On the Awareness Checklist, Brian displayed significant awareness of his deficits, boundaries and attributes. He displayed short-term memory loss and required increased time to think before responding. "People wonder why I haven't given them the answer when they ask me questions; I say I'm thinking about it. I talk my way through it," stated Brian. When asked about his awareness to receiving feedback, he reported, "It is OK to have feedback, I don't mind people helping me."

Rehabilitation Progress...

Upon admission to Rainbow Rehabilitation Center in Oakland County, Brian had good basic self-care. He set his alarm, was able to feed, groom, bathe and dress himself. He kept his bedroom clean and did his own laundry independently. Brian was highly motivated to move through the rehabilitation continuum. According to Linda (Brian's mother), "Brian understood what he had to do to succeed, and the Rainbow Staff worked with him. Whenever I would go to visit or attend meetings, they had nothing but good things to say about Brian. It made him feel good and helped motivate him to succeed."

Initially, Brian's goal was to return to an individual residential setting with proficient activities of daily living including: Housekeeping, budgeting, cooking and a job to support an independent life style. While at Rainbow, Brian had a positive attitude and was actively involved in striving to accomplish all his therapy goals. Additionally, his strengths included acceptance of compensatory suggestions and good orientation to time and place.

Discharge from rehabilitation...

Between the initial evaluation and his discharge, Brian made substantial gains. He learned to: Follow several step directions, cook safely, use a planner, increase his driving range, take multiple part bus routes, find his way around town and problem solve if he got lost or confused. He also improved his financial and checkbook management.

Vocationally, Brian successfully completed an internship at Rainbow in the IT Department. He was hired at Target and successfully maintained the position which he still has today. When I asked Brian about his job, he said, "It's nice, but I want a career in computers, and I'm not going to give up." Currently, Brian has plans to attend a technical institute in the spring of 2006 and complete a 4-year degree.

Difficulties along the way...

Linda's perspective on what was the most difficult for Brian to deal with was his diminished independence. "My son was always and still is very independent. Brian wants to do things his way and on his time. I think not being able to be quite so

independent was his biggest issue. Brian's independence and determination has been a big asset in helping him overcome rehabilitation obstacles. They sat down with us and gave Brian's prognosis: *Brian will most probably never live independently; he'll never drive. He's surpassed every expectation all the doctors had. It was accomplished with pure determination,*" stated Linda.

Brian's advice for other survivors...

Brian now has his own car and no driving restrictions. When I asked Brian about his successful rehabilitation, he stated, "After my accident, everything in my life was destroyed. At that point I had to start over. My advice for others going through rehabilitation is to stay positive. The hardest thing is letting go of the past and looking forward to the future. Stick with the program. I also recommend that people who are going through this tragedy should keep a notebook or journal to write down thoughts so they can keep on top of their emotions. I prefer a digital recorder, but a simple note pad will do. And be calm along the journey – rehabilitation takes a long time but it's worth it." ♦

BIOGRAPHY

Job - Works for Target retail store.

Personal Goal - Would like to finish a 4 year technical degree.

Favorite TV show - Dilbert (story of a guy working in a computer store).

Hobbies:

Computers - enjoys playing games and surfing the net. Also likes movie editing.

