





## ACCESSIBLE TUB NOW OFF MAN'S WISH LIST

SUE STORY TRUAX  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A bath.

That's one of the three things Anthony "Tony" Cato Jr. listed when friend Jennifer Galloway asked him what he really wanted.

"We are just sitting around and talking one day with some other friends," said Cato. "It's been so long since I've taken a bath."

Cato, a former university of Nebraska-Lincoln and professional basketball player, was injured when an uninsured drunken driver hit his SUV in 2007. Problems resulting from his injuries have meant

needed to take showers seated in a special chair.

Now, however, "bath" had a check mark on his list.

Workmen showed up last week at his Miller Park home to install a new state of the art tub donated

and installed free by Safe Step Walk-In Co. of Nashville, Tenn.

At about 8 p.m. last Friday, Cato took his first bath in six plus years.

After the accident, Cato, now 50, was



declared to be quadriplegic. But six years, eight surgeries and intensive physical therapy have allowed him to regain the use of his legs and left arm.

However, the loss of income from his job

and lingering medical bills strap the household of Cato and his mother, Rebecca Holbrook.

After Cato put a bath atop his wish list, Galloway took action.

"Jennifer wrote a letter to every tub company she could

find" seeking help for Cato, said Danielle Westerman Revelette, marketing manager for Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co.

Only Revelette's firm

responded.

"We were so inspired by him," she said. Moreover, as a Papillion-La Vista High School alum, she wanted to give "our Husker to another."

"My company wanted to do this

regardless," she said. "This was the first time we've done this, but we definitely want to continue. It's the right thing to do."

The name of the company's new program is Safe Step Cares.

When Cato was told, a free tub was coming his way, "he said he didn't have many words because he was speechless. He wasn't sure it was real," Revelette said.

"Now," said Cato, "I have to work on my other goals." They are a battery for his Apple laptop and a nice vacation.





## Community steps up for Selena

MONIQUE TAMMINGA

The community has come together to offer what they can to help an amazing 10-year-old Langley girl who was diagnosed last year with a life-threatening disease.

A total of \$26,000 was raised and all 350 tickets sold for “A Night for Selena” fundraiser held on Saturday night at Cascades Casino Summit Theatre.

Selena Yorke, a Langley Meadows Grade 5 student, has been diagnosed with a rare disease called Friedreich’s Ataxia, a neuromuscular disorder

that affects every cell in her body including her heart. There is no cure.

Already, Selena is losing the ability to walk and uses a wheelchair part time.

“There is still a lot to do to help and numerous large expenses they will face in the future but at least it can help some,” said one of the night’s organizers Amber Medeiros, who is friends with the Yorkes.

The Yorkes are facing numerous expenses, including a stairlift for their home



Parents Cari and Brad Yorke with son Noah and daughter Selena, 10, who was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease a year ago, called Friedreich’s Ataxia. The Yorkes were the recipients of a brand new walk-in bathtub and shower from Canadian Safe Step Tubs to help Selena as her disease progresses. - Image Credit: Miranda Gathercole/Langley Times

that will cost around \$11,000 and a vehicle with a wheelchair lift which can cost upwards of \$60,000. They also needed to renovate the

bathroom at a cost of around \$30,000.

But on Saturday morning, the Yorkes were surprised with the arrival of a walk-in tub

and walk-in shower donated by Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co.

company to put her on top of their Safe Step Cares program.

As well, Langley Fine Arts School will donate all the proceeds from its upcoming play The Importance of Being Ernest running April 18 to 26. Admission is \$10. Further details at [langleytimes.com](http://langleytimes.com).

If you would like to donate to help Selena, you can still go to any TD bank and ask for A Night for Selena acct. # 9194-5241677.

Canadian production manager Kevin Balmer read Selena’s story in The Times and was so touched he asked his





# WALK-IN THERAPY TUB CHANGES SUSANVILLE TEEN'S LIFE

AURA WHITTAKER  
Staff Writer

David Scarbrough weighed 18 ounces at birth. At age 3, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. As he grew, his muscles struggled to keep up, but his spirit more than made up for it. Now, at age 13, David is a boy Scout, loves dogs and four wheeling and collects keys.

In September 2012, David's mother, Ronette, was advised by doctors to seek out a walk-in tub to assist with David's mobility and therapy. Faced with rising medical costs from David's continual care, Ronette took her quest for the walk-in tub online.

Andrea Allender, director of marketing at Nashville-based Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company, one of the nation's leading walk-in tub providers, discovered the fundraising effort online and asked Safe Step's president and owner Mike Duffer to help change the Scarbrough's lives.

"I found Ronette and David's story online and knew we could make a difference," said Allender. "So, I walked into Mike's office and said, 'Mike, we have to give them a tub.' Mike didn't hesitate. He decided on the spot to make the donation to assist the Scarbroughs."

When Safe Step called Ronette, her response was over the top.

"Oh, my gosh! You guys are awesome," said Ronette. "I can't believe this is happening!"

Soon one of Safe Step's state of the art, top-of-the-line walk-in tubs was on its way to Susanville at no cost to the Scarbrough family. They even sent contractors to move the water pipes and install the tub.

David uses the walk-in tub up to seven times a day and his mom says his doctors are as pleased as she is.

"Since we've had the tub, David's mobility has



improved. The swelling in his knees has been reduced dramatically," said Ronette. "When his doctors and therapists heard about the donation, they were amazed and thrilled because they knew the therapeutic benefits of the tub were immense."

Six months after the installation, Safe Step revisited Susanville to check in on the Scarbroughs.

"We're here today because we care," said Safe Step representative Derek Farley. "We wanted to see the impact of the donation. We found that the tub is used every day, multiple times a day, and that it's really become a member of the family."

David and Ronette's story inspired Safe Step's nationwide initiative called Safe Step Cares.

Omaha, Neb. Resident Anthony (Tony) Cato, Jr., a former quadriplegic disabled by an uninsured drunk driver, received Safe Step's first official Safe Step Cares donation in early April. He was able to take a bath unassisted for the first time in years.

In late April, Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. employees were so moved by a story about Selena Yorke, an 11-year-old British Columbia girl with Friedreich's Ataxia, they asked their president, Robert J. Hartley II, to help. He responded by donating a tub as well as a shower to assist Selena's family as they remodel their home to accommodate their daughter.

Since it was installed in November 2012, David's walk-in tub, which he calls Soaky, has provided comfort, safety

convenience and impendence for both David and Ronette.

It's been a life changing experience in our home," said Ronette. "Thank you just doesn't seem enough."

The recent Richmond School yard sale raised more than \$1000 to benefit David. Ronette said she was able to have a cement pad and walkway put in so David can be wheeled outside to sit under the tree in their front yard.

David is currently facing multiple injuries and will be laid up for eight to 12 months. Ronette is busy organizing more fundraisers to help cover medical bills. Look for car washes and yard sale fundraisers this summer.





## NASHVILLE FIRM DONATES BATHTUBS, TOILET PAPER TO CRESTVIEW MANOR

By BRIAN HUGHES  
Crestview News Bulletin

CRESTVIEW-- A local assisted living home's residents needn't worry about bathtubs and toilets.

Mike Duffer, president and owner of Nashville-based Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., surprised Crestview Manor's 60 residents Friday with two free walk-in tubs and the promise of 3,000 toilet paper rolls a year.

The tubs were to be installed Saturday, and the toilet paper will keep rolling as long as Safe Step and Crestview Manor remain in business, Duffer said.

He became aware of the low-income residents' needs with an email from Shirley Perring, who with



coworkers at the Jackson Hewitt tax office supports Crestview Manor as a community service project.

Their involvement began around Easter when they offered to help Emerald Coast Hospice deliver "Baskets of Blessings" to the residents.

Later, while home recuperating from back surgery, Perring contacted tub and toilet paper manufacturers.

"The tub is dangerous and looks like something out of 'One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest,'" Perring wrote in an email, referring

to the film about patients in a decrepit mental hospital.

"I wrote an email and the rest is history," she said. "Never in a million years did I think I would get it."

Safe Step Cares, the company's nationwide philanthropy program, has

received hundreds of requests for donations, said Derek Farley, president of Safe Step's public relations agency.

"The tub request we're used to," he said in an email.

"The toilet paper request took us by surprise for very good reason: We don't make toilet paper."

Safe Step wouldn't offer a value on the donated tubs, but the units and custom installation reportedly range from \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The toilet paper is estimated to cost Safe Step about \$1,500 a year, Farley said.

"We're a very blessed company, and it's a pleasure and a privilege to be able to make these life-changing donations," Duffer said. "We are thrilled to bring comfort, independence, safety and convenience to Crestview Manor."

"This is truly a miracle donation," said Becky Brice-Nash, director of Crestview Manor. "It was a donation of a lifetime for some very special people and beyond our wildest dreams."



## TWO FAMILIES RECEIVE LIFE-CHANGING GIFTS FROM SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB. CO.

GIRLS WITH RARE DISEASE (FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA) SELECTED AS 'SAFE STEP CARES' HONOREES

### INDIANAPOLIS, IN

It began with a letter to a company in Nashville about a teenage girl in Indianapolis with a rare, life threatening disease.

Nathan Hand, a friend of the girl's family, wrote to Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., which had recently donated a state-of-the art therapeutic tub through its nationwide program of giving, Safe Step Cares. The recipient, Selena Yorke, suffers from Friedreich's Ataxia (FA), a rare neuromuscular disorder that affects every cell in her body as well as her heart. Hand was looking for a helping hand for his friend, Virgil Harris.

Virgil's 18-year-old daughter Jazmyne also has Friedreich's Ataxia, a severely debilitating, degenerative disorder which is inherited at birth. So, determined to give Jazmyne the quality of life she deserves, Virgil set up a

foundation, Jumpin' for Jazz, to tell her story, increase awareness about FA and raise funds to offset her medical bills. Hand thought the therapeutic tub would be perfect for the family.

Safe Step, which routinely receives numerous letters for tub donations, loved the letter and Jazmyne's story and decided to help. But the company got a big surprise when they called Virgil to let him know. Virgil told Safe Step that the Templetons, another Indianapolis family who has two college-age daughters with FA, were more deserving. If there was one tub to give, Virgil said, give it to the Templetons.

Amazed by Virgil's thoughtfulness, Safe Step decided that one tub wasn't enough in Indianapolis, so it decided that the Templeton family, at Virgil's suggestion,



would receive the tub for their daughters Amy and Emily, while Jazmyne would receive an additional tub too.

"I am so grateful for this gift," said Harris. "I show my enthusiasm because Jazmyne will benefit but I am so thankful that the Templetons got their tub as well."

Virgil's thoughtfulness was not lost on the Templetons.

"Virgil's selflessness, and what Safe Step did in providing two tubs, is just unbelievable,"

said Paul Templeton, Amy and Emily's father. "Safe Step came in here and immediately you could tell that they were looking out for us, caring about our needs."

Earlier this year, Safe Step launched its Safe Step Cares program, in which the company rewards those in need on a regular basis at no cost.

"We're a family company and the connections we make along the way are so important to us that we wanted to be here to show them that they are now

a part of our family," said Andi Allender, Safe Step's director of marketing. "As a result of Safe Step Cares, three girls in Indianapolis are going to gain independence and actually feel better when they bathe."

"Safe Step is in the business of changing the lives of our neighbors and friends, every day," said Safe Step CFO Stuart Hall, who made the trip from Nashville to Indianapolis to present the tubs in person with Allender at both residences. "We are pleased to be able to provide Jazmyne, Emily and Amy more safety and comfort as they cope with the effects of this unforgiving disease."

Perhaps Amy and Emily's mother, Shawna Templeton, summed the event up best: "For ten years, we've been like 'what are we going to do?' and then to have this all given to us today, I'm just amazed. I'm overwhelmed by

the generosity, the love, the friendship and the beauty of it all."

### About Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co.

Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. is one of the nation's leading walk-in tub providers, known for quality, service and affordability. Safe Step Tubs have received the Ease-Of-Use Commendation by the Arthritis Foundation and are manufactured and built in America using American-made components. Their quality is backed with the best warranty in the business, including a lifetime warranty on the tub, the door seal and faucets. Servicing all of the US and all of Canada, Safe Step Walk-In Tub is a family company, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee.





# Nashville company donates walk-in tub to Orlando girl with cerebral palsy

BY BILL JONES, EDITOR

For Orlando Park Mother Naheda Jablonski, everyday can be a bit of a struggle.

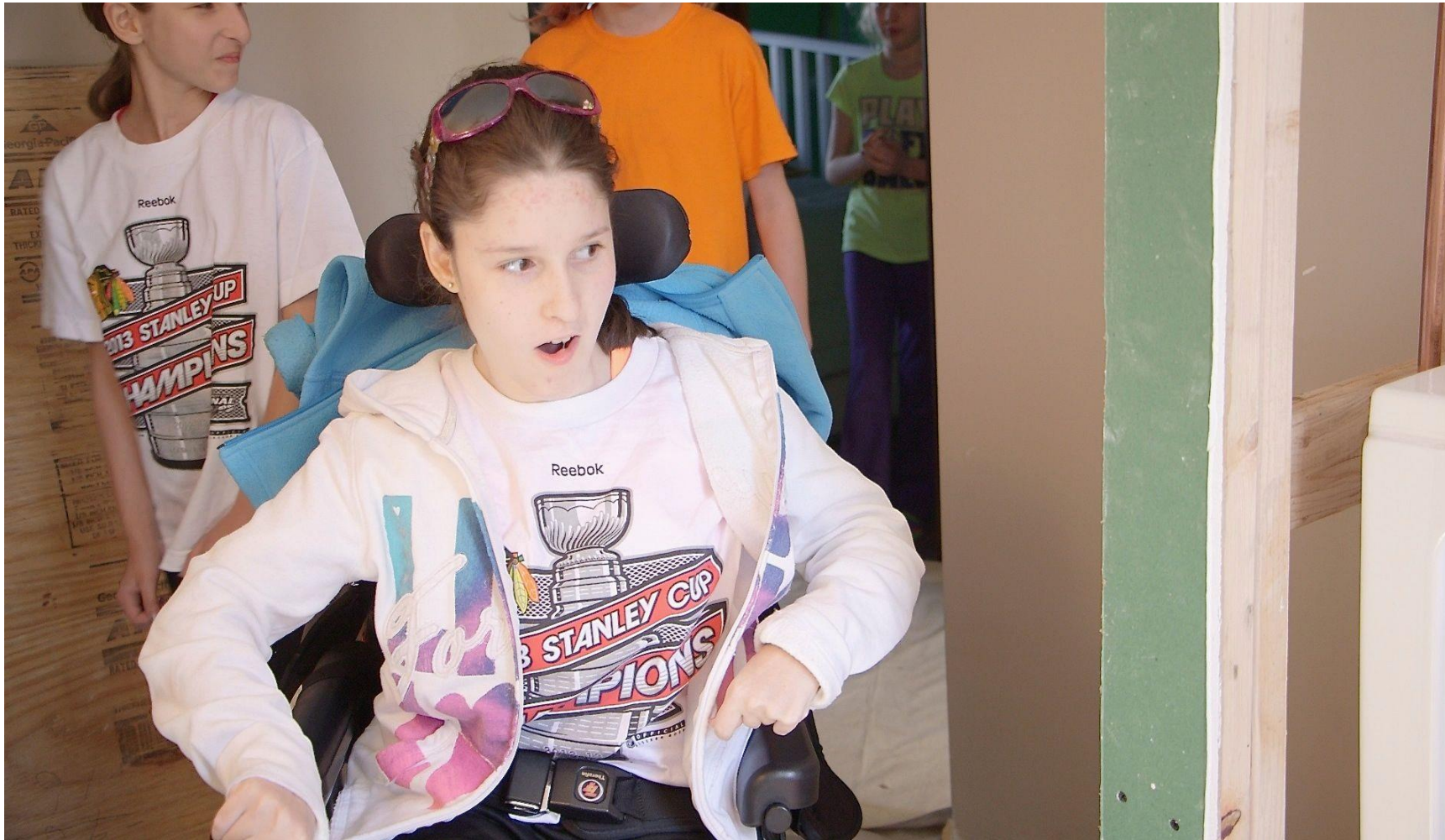
Jablonski's husband died after a battle with cancer, leaving her a widow. She recently lost a longtime job. And she raises two daughters with special needs, Sophia and Stephanie.

Sophia, in particular, has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheel-chair. When Sophia needs a bath, Naheda has to bathe with her. And at 4 foot 11 with a recent back surgery, it can be quite the physical challenge for the mother to lift her 14-year-old.

"It's really hard for me to give her a bath," Naheda said. "I have to take one with her to hold her."

so Naheda reached out to sale representative don ball from Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. to get an estimate on the installation of one of its tubs. But Naheda said the cost was not within her means.

"I had no idea," she said. "I said, 'there's no way I could afford this.'"



**Sophia Jablonski of Orlando Park reacts Friday, April 24, to seeing her new Safe Step Walk-In Tub, installed free of charge through the Safe Step Cares Program.**

But the story did not end there.

"Rather than walking away, [the sales rep] went home and typed a letter, and it ended up on the president's desk," said Derek Farley, the spokesperson for the Safe Step

Cares program. "We read all the letters."

Farley said the program began as a commitment on the part of the company's president and founder, Mike Duffer, to give back if Safe Step found success.

"The whole point of this program is to change lives," Farley explained. "the more success they have, the more that they give."

The donation to the Jablonski family was the first in Illinois for the Nashville based company, which works through

a dealer network. And changing lives is a mission accomplished when it comes to what the program has done for the Orlando Park family.

"It works so nice for her," Naheda said. "We were really, really grateful for what their company did... I just couldn't believe they were generous enough to do something like that."

Naheda noted Sophia took her first shower alone shortly after the installation. "She

was just so happy she could do that," Naheda said.

Safe Step Cares is far from the first to come to aid of the family. Naheda said May or Dan McLaughlin knows the family well at this point, and the Village has helped her

family on numerous occasions. Members of her church helped remodel the lower level of her home so that a ramp could be installed and are also repainting the interior of the house. Her local bank even stepped up to help her refinance the home to avoid foreclosure.

It is all coming full circle for fundraising efforts, trying to give back to the community that has supported her family so much. And that was one of the things Safe Step noted when it received the request, Farley said. She needed help, but didn't ask for it, and she regularly worked to better her community.

"We had a wonderful day in Orlando Park," Farley said. "The Jablonski family was so hospitable. Naheda's daughters are angels on Earth."

"Sophia just won everyone over. She was so excited and we were excited for her."





# THE HOSPITAL VETERANS JOURNAL

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

## SAFE STEP CARES DONATES BATH TUB TO CORPORAL FRANK DUPÉRÉ, A CANADIAN SERVICEMAN INJURED IN WAS IN AFGHANISTAN

MARIE DEL CID  
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While serving in Afghanistan in 2011, Corporal Frank Dupéré, a soldier from the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion of the royal 22<sup>nd</sup>, was severely injured by a suicide bomber wearing 150 pounds of explosives. The bomber was only a few meters away from Cpl. Dupéré, when everything blew up, shook and changed his life forever. He lost his right eye, suffered paralysis of his left hand and lost part of his hearing; however, he is grateful and thankful to be alive.

Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. heard about Cpl. Dupéré's service through Operation Veteran founder, Dr. Paul Kavanagh, and decided that they needed to help him.

"Dr. Paul Kavanagh contacted me about the possibility of Safe Step contributing to purchasing some seats for a large dinner function in Ottawa [The War Museum] in honour if the veterans, we talked about our Safe Step Cares program, he talked about Cpl. Frank Dupéré, and I thought he would be a perfect candidate for our Safe Step Cares program," said Cindy Leonard, director of sales and marketing for Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co.

Cpl. Dupéré met Dr. Kavanagh though conferences where he has been a motivational speaker sharing his experience as a soldier in Afghanistan to high school students, veterans and sports teams.

"I didn't even know he sent a letter on my-



behalf to the Safe Step Tub Company. He talked about my story, that my back and spine is bad and it's not really straight because of the push from the explosion," said Cpl. Dupéré in an interview for Sun News.

The therapeutic tub will serve to make his whole body and back feel better from his severe injuries, countless surgeries and scars; ultimately a tub that will change his life for

the better. Cpl. Dupéré says he has around 200 pieces of shrapnel inside his body on the right side.

In May 2014 at a press function at the LeBreton Gallery in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, Safe Step Cares, the company's nationwide program of giving, presented Cpl. Dupéré with a state of the art hydrotherapeutic bath tub donated by Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., in

order to help and improve his mobility while providing comfort and safety. Cpl. Dupéré received his therapeutic tub on the day Canada was honouring those who served in Afghanistan.

"Safe Step Cares is based on gut instinct. There is no schedule or formula. We simply look at all letters and consider them all and when we feel the story and timing is right, we decide to take action and change lives. And in the case with Cpl. Dupéré, as we have with all out recipients, we got it right," said Derek Farley, with Safe Step Cares.

The program is designed to benefit families, individuals and facilities in need of walk-in tubs based on need and circumstance. A few past

honourees have including Tony Cato, a former quadriplegic injured by an uninsured drink driver, and David Scarbrough, who struggles with cerebral palsy. The program has also awarded two tubs to Crestview Manor, a low-income assisted living facility, after it found out that the bathing conditions at the facility needed improvement.

"Our Safe Step Cares program has been in effect for about two years. The owner of corporate is Mike Duffer; who made a promise to his mother, before she dies, that if Safe Step ever became a successful company, he would be sure to give back. So, this is his promise to his mother," said Leonard.



## AUBURNDALE'S INSPIRATION RECEIVES HER OWN INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH A LIFE-CHANGING GIFT FROM SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB CO.

LACEY PATE, 14-YEAR OLD WITH RARE DISEASE, CHOSEN AS A RECIPIENT OF SAFE STEP CARES

AUBURNDALE, FL

Lacey Pate has been called Auburndale's Inspiration. She was born with an extremely rare genetic disorder called King Syndrome. Her family was advised that Lacey would not be able to live outside of the womb. She is now 14.

She spent the first 32 days of her life at Tampa General and had her first surgery at 3 weeks old. Lacey has severe kypho-scoliosis which caused her spine to crush her lung, so she was on a ventilator and gradually made her way

to oxygen 24/7. She has chronic respiratory insufficiency, webbing of the neck, low set ears with severe hearing loss (she wears hearing aids) and Arthrogryposis.

She has now had a total of 47 surgeries. Since having these life-saving surgeries she only has to have oxygen at night, while flying, when she is sick, and after surgery during her recovery. After her most recent surgery in May, Lacey's lungs collapsed and she was put on a ventilator and had to have a chest tube placed. She has been in critical



condition several times but she is a miracle girl who just refuses to let the condition define her.

Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company heard

about Lacey's story and found her online donation site. Through its award-winning national program of giving, Safe Step Cares, the Nashville-based

company delivered state-of-the-art tub to Lacey at no cost to the family in May.

"We were moved by Lacey's story, how the community has rallied around her," said Mike Duffer, president and founder of Safe Step Walk-In Tub, who flew in for the event in order to meet Lacey and her parents. "We came upon her online campaign and decided that after all she and her family had been through, we would surprise them by giving her a tub that will change her life."

Safe Step became aware of Lacey via a letter written by Tim O'Brien, who heard about Lacey's situation despite never having met her. Safe Step decided to fly Tim and his wife Daryl to Auburndale in order to meet Lacey and her parents. That will happen later in July of 2014.





## Nashville-based company donates \$12K tub to woman in need

LORI MITCHELL

LA VERGNE, Tenn. (WKRN) A Nashville-based company made a woman's wish come true by giving her a \$12,000 tub at no cost.

Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company delivered the hydrotherapy tub to 67-year-old Lawanda Pryor's La Vergne home Friday morning.

Several employees with the company lined up in front of the house and clapped as the delivery van arrived.



**The \$12,000 tub was delivered and installed into Lawanda Pryor's home Friday.**

The company learned about Pryor after her daughter sent them a letter. In the note, she explained that her mother had several health issues, including a lesion on her brain stem that causes balance issues and limited mobility.

Simple, everyday tasks like getting in the shower or bathtub are monumental for Pryor.

"It had gotten to the point that my biggest fear was trying to get in my shower," Pryor told News 2.

In the letter, her daughter went on to explain how her mother fell in love with a hydrotherapy tub and made a \$400 deposit on it. However, she was denied credit and was unable to afford the remainder of the balance.

Pryor also suffered hardships in her family when her husband passed away and her daughter



**Several employees were at Pryor's home to celebrate the tub's delivery.**

committed suicide in their home two weeks later.

Mike Duffer, president and founder of Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company, saw the letter and was touched by Pryor's story.

He made his dying mother a promise that if his company was successful, he would give back to those less fortunate. Duffer thought Pryor's situation was a perfect chance to help someone in need.

"We heard she loved our tub, wanted to buy our tub but

through a series of financial and other hardships, she was unable to afford it," explained Duffer.

"To be candid, we felt Ms. Pryor needed a break. It's tough to lose the ability to bathe safely so we are going to change her life with a tub through Safe Step Cares while giving her the independence, dignity and safety she deserves," he added.

A crew was at Pryor's home this weekend to install her brand-new tub.

It was donated through the company's **Safe Step Cares program**, which seeks out people who will benefit from its hydrotherapy tubs and provides them at no charge. Pryor is the program's first Tennessee recipient.



## SAFE STEP STEPS UP FOR TWIN CITIES PAVILION

BY NICEVILLE

Residents of Niceville's Twin Cities Pavilion are enjoying the benefits of a world-class walk-in-tub and walk-in shower, both generously donated this month to the non-profit assisted living facility by Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company. Twin Cities Pavilion is home to 40 residents, many of whom are veterans or widows of veterans.

The donation by Safe Step comes on the heels of a 2013 contribution of two state-of-the-art hydrotherapeutic tubs to Crestview Manor, a sister facility to Twin Cities Pavilion. In August of 2013, Safe Step surprised the 60 residents of



Crestview Manor with the hydrotherapeutic tubs after receiving a letter which stated the residents of the low-income assisted living facility were bathing in unacceptable conditions.

When the company learned toilet paper was always in short supply, it

donated toilet paper for the life of the facility.

The recent contribution came following a request by Twin Cities Pavilion Director Melissa Mealer.

"I'm in shock," said Mealer. "They were so generous to Crestview, so I

decided to take a chance. They didn't blink. We didn't ask for toilet paper but we did ask for one tub and Safe Step decided that one wasn't enough so they decided to throw in a walk-in shower as well."

Why the generous donations?

Mike Duffer, president and owner of Safe Step, said he made a promise to his dying mother years ago that if his company had success, he would give back. He created a national program of giving called Safe Step Cares, which provides those less fortunate with his company's premium products.

"We're a very blessed company and it's a pleasure and a privilege to be able to make these life-changing donations," said Duffer. "Our products change lives every day and we are thrilled to bring comfort, independence,

safety and convenience to the residents of Twin Cities."

Safe Step Walk-In Tub is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee.



**SAFE STEP  
CARES**



## WOMAN'S VIRAL VIDEO RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT CYSTIC FIBROSIS

BY THE DOCTORS STAFF

For much of her life, Christina kept the life-threatening genetic disease she lives with a secret in hopes of living a normal life.

She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at 6 months old and learned when she was in middle school that the average life expectancy is 33. Her attempt to live normally was interrupted by frequent trips to the hospital to fight infections caused by the disease.

But in the past several months, Christina, who is now 23, says she's watched as several friends with the condition struggled to raise money to pay for potentially life-saving lung transplants, and she began

to think about her future and how she could help others.

"What if the doctors were to come to me tomorrow and say, 'Christina, it's time for a lung transplant,'" she says. "I didn't want to spend the next year of my life trying to raise \$40,000 and telling people, 'Hey, I have cystic fibrosis, and I'm sorry I didn't tell you.' Something within my heart was telling me it was time to share it. I didn't want to wait any longer."

She wrote her story on notecards and asked her mom to record her as she held them up one at a time, revealing:

"When I was 6 months old I got life-



changing news!! I was diagnosed with a life threatening illness! I have cystic fibrosis."

Then, she posted the video on Facebook. More than 12 million people have watched the video.

About 30,000 children and adults have cystic fibrosis. ER physician Dr. Travis Stork explains that the disease affects the lungs, as well as

the pancreas, sweat glands and digestive system. He says that a healthy person has thin mucus, which helps rid the body of infections quickly. But, he says, in people with cystic fibrosis, a defective gene produces thick mucus, which makes breathing difficult and infections difficult to control. People with cystic fibrosis must go to the hospital for IV

antibiotics to fight infections.

Symptoms of cystic fibrosis include persistent coughing, frequent lung infections, shortness of breath and poor growth, despite a good appetite, according to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. When someone with cystic fibrosis develops severe lung disease, doctors often recommend having a lung transplant.

As a result of the attention from her video, Christina started her own foundation to raise awareness and to raise money to help people with cystic fibrosis pay for lung transplants when they need them.

"I wanted to be able to say to every CF patient

like myself, 'When you go in and you qualify for a lung transplant, you get to spend that year with your family, and you don't have to worry about paying that \$40,000,'" Christina says. "'My foundation is going to step in and pay for that.'"

**The Doctors surprise Christina by telling her that Safe Step Walk-in Tub Company is donating \$10,000 to her foundation.**

To watch Christina's video and donate to her foundation, visit the Christina Davidson Foundation website.





## GOOD SAMARITAN RECEIVES LIFE-CHANGING GIFT

### SAFE-STEP WALK-IN TUB CO. DONATES HYDROTHERAPEUTIC TUB TO EVELETH'S ROEN

JIM ROMSAAS  
SPORTS EDITOR

EVELETH — Sometimes staying up to watch early morning infomercials can pay benefits.

It did for Eveleth's Adam Roen anyway.

Still recovering from a serious car accident one year ago, Roen couldn't sleep one night last fall and an infomercial for a Safe-Step walk-in tub caught his eye. He quickly called the toll-free number on the screen and a Safe-Step consultant was at his home within two days.

Little did he know what that would lead to. Within 24 hours of talking to the consultant about the tub and his injuries, the company decided to provide one to Roen at no cost.

"Being selected to receive one is humbling," the 34-year-old father of two said in a phone interview Thursday. "The others they give them to are so worthy of them. It's hard to see yourself as worthy."

Ironically, Roen had just been looking at similar tubs and

pricing them.

"The price on the tubs is challenging," he said in a phone interview Thursday.

So, when the regional CEO for the Safe-Step Walk-In Tub Co. decided to make Roen the first Safe-Step Cares recipient in Minnesota, the Eveleth resident "was blown away by that."

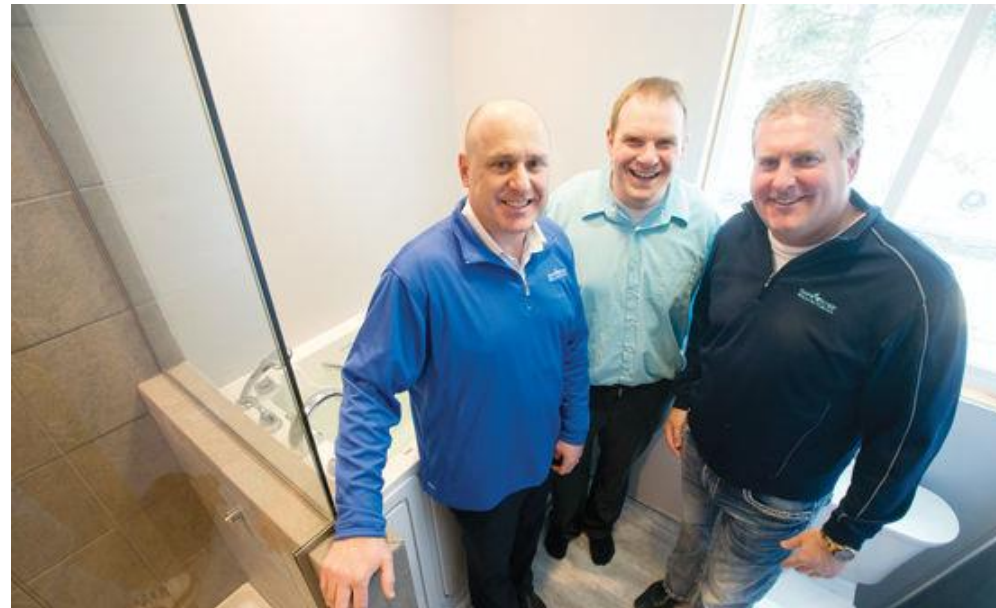
The company was ready to install the tub last December, but Roen wanted to wait so a few changes to his bathroom could be made first.

They decided on an April 23 date and three Safe-Step installers were at his place Thursday and had the tub completed by lunch time.

The only "bad" part is that Roen has to wait 24 hours to use the tub, which has water and air jet treatment, light therapy, aroma therapy, heat therapy and more.

"It's mind blowing," he said.

On April 27, 2014, Adam Roen happened upon a truck accident on I-35 in the Carlton area. He assisted a grandmother and her 4-year-old grandson escape from an overturned truck. As he was



Mark Sauer

**Safe Step Walk-In Tubs consultant Jay Fredrich and CEO Craig Dauffenbach join Adam Roen next to the new walk-in tub the company donated to Roen Thursday. Roen was critically injured in 2014 when he stopped to help an accident victim on I-35 near Carlton. Roen was struck when a second vehicle slid off the highway and rolled on top of him.**

carrying the young boy to safety, another truck approached. Roen managed to toss the boy to safety but was struck by the truck and pinned underneath.

He has had a hard road back, with four surgeries between St. Luke's Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center in the Twin Cities due to a broken scapula, torn triceps off of his elbow, broken ulna, broken ribs,

torn bladder, broken pelvis, partially dissected right femoral

artery, broken left femur, road rash and more.

Nashville-based Safe-Step Walk-In Tub Co., whose national program of giving — Safe-Step Cares — routinely provides its state-of-the-art hydrotherapeutic tubs to those in need, heard about Adam's story and ultimately selected him as Minnesota's first recipient of the program.

"We were moved by Adam's story and Safe-Step is in the

business of changing the lives of our neighbors and friends, every day" said Craig Dauffenbach, CEO and Owner of Safe-Step Walk-In Tub of Minnesota. "We felt he could really benefit from our tub as he continues to rehabilitate and recover. We are very pleased to provide him with this life-changing gift to show him that Safe-Step cares."

The new tub will definitely help lessen the pain Roen still endures, as well as making getting in and out easier.

"It's going to be a huge help in my recovery," he said.

The lip to step over is only 3-4 inches and there is a seat the height of a dining room chair inside. The tub is 48 inches long and water comes to just below Roen's shoulders when being used.

The ease of entry will make Roen less "nervous" too. With his old tub, he liked to have someone around in case of an emergency. He does have a walk-in shower downstairs, but it takes a potentially dangerous 15 steps to get down there, he added.

Roen believes the tub will be more beneficial day by day.

He has already developed arthritis since his injuries and surgeries and said, "I could be in some trouble down the road. None of us know what's going to happen for sure."

Roen, a local referee, did return to the court last winter although it was "terrible and painful" for his body. However, "it was so worth it for the mind." In addition, he is now umpiring a few games this spring.

Looking back on the whole tub donation and installation, Roen gave "a big thank you to that entire Safe-Step team. Their generosity goes over and above what a company does for most people."

If local residents are in need of such a tub, Roen highly recommends contacting Safe-Step through their website [www.safestepcares.com](http://www.safestepcares.com).





## WALK-IN TUB MEANS INDEPENDENCE, HEALING FOR WHEELCHAIR-BOUND WOMAN

**SETH DICKERSON**

Doctors told Pamela Poulan she would never walk again.

Now, once the caulking dries Thursday morning, Poulan will be stepping into a walk-in tub donated by Tennessee bath tub company Safe Step through their Safe Step Cares program.

"I'm so shocked," she said. "I can't believe this is happening. I'm beside myself with amazement."

After a physical altercation with her husband nine years ago left her disabled from the neck down, Poulan's spine was essentially severed. She couldn't even move her arms.

But through sheer willpower, the mother of

three said, she was able to push herself for nine years to recover.

"My right arm came back first, then the left arm came back," she said. "It was hard. There were times when I could move my arm off my lap but then I would have to get someone to put it back."

Now, she can use a walker. She said her current record for number of steps taken on her own is 280.

There helping Pamela Poulan along the way is her husband, Steve Poulan. From taking care of their kids and helping take her medicine to helping her go to the bathroom and doing her makeup, Steve balanced taking care of his wife on top of his teaching job.



Pamela Poulan, who sustained a spinal injury nine years ago, sits her new walk-in bathtub donated by Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at her home in Breaux Bridge, La. Safe Step Director of Sales Philip A. Melfa, and her daughter Kelsey, 14, look on.

"He's my superhero," she said. "He's been my biggest supporter. I would not be sitting here without him."

But Pamela Poulan would like to be able to do some things, such as bathing, by herself. She was searching for public grants to get her house modified so she could get around easier, when she

received an email from Safe Step telling her about the Cares program. She jumped at the opportunity, she said.

"My husband got us a hotel room with a jacuzzi tub,

and it was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had," she said. "I had to get one of these. It was soothing, I didn't have the spasms. It was awesome. I couldn't believe it."

Safe Step has donated about one tub a month over the past two years, but has no real hard-line goal, National Director of Sales Philip Melfa said. Twenty-

five families in need across the country have received tubs through Safe Step Cares.

As for the incident between the Poulans, Pamela maintains that it wasn't Steve's fault. After Steve told her he cheated on her, she said she dealt with her sadness by drinking. One night, she drunkenly attacked him. Steve pushed her away in defense, Pamela said, and she fell, hitting her spine.

"If there was a history of domestic violence, we wouldn't be here," Derek Farley, representative for Safe Step said. "It was an accident, you fought it head-on, and we want to be a part of your recuperation."

The tub, valued at \$1,500, features LED lighting for light- and

color-based chromatherapy, which has been shown in scientific studies to increase stimulation in the brain.

The jets in the tub also heavily oxygenate the water, which can help the healing process, he said.

But this tub means much more than therapy, Pamela Poulan said. The program does not require recipients to reach out to the media, but she insisted that her story need to be told.

"We have healed in so many ways, not just my body but our marriage and our family," she said. "We're more in love now than when we first got married."





FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015

## COMPANY DONATES TUB TO A WOMAN WHO WAS SCAMMED



ASHLEY REYNOLDS

Company donates new tub to Summit Arkansas woman who was scammed.

Thanks to Facebook Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company saw the Contact KY3 story about Wanda Gray. She refinanced her mortgage, lost \$5000.00 and never got the tub she ordered from Tim Victory. Today, Wanda received a state of the art tub, by

Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. Corporate officials came from Nashville and Charlotte to personally deliver the product. It has all the bells and whistles to ease arthritis and muscles.

Full story at 6.





MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

## Dells residents on the path to recovery

BY MICAH BADER  
Feb. 29, 2016

After a traffic accident on July 12, 2013, a Dell Rapids family is on the road to recovery.

Valerie Heesch broke her leg in 81 pieces during the crash, while her daughter, Tiffany Heesch, broke her ankle and needed a steel rod in her leg after breaking it in three places, Valerie Heesch said.

The duo was riding a motorcycle together when they were struck by a drunk driver making a left turn, according to a press release. Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. heard the story and responded Thursday, Feb. 25, with free delivery and installation of a walk-in tub with hydrotherapeutic benefits at the Heesch home as part of the Safe Step Cares program.

"When he told us about the benefits, it almost makes you cry," Valerie Heesch said. "I really think we'll get some good therapy out of it and be able to walk better."



Derek Farley, an organizer with of Safe Step Cares, said the program has given away more than 30 tubs over the last three years. He said he was impressed with the Heesch's attitude despite the pain they endure.

"They weren't looking for a handout, they were looking for help, and I think that's a big difference," Farley said. "When we got ahold of their story, it was one of the quickest decisions we've ever made."

It took some coaxing to get the Heesch to accept the gift. "When they first approached me, I told them no," Valerie Heesch said. "I feel like you need to give it to some older people who need it. I'm not a person who wants to take anything. I want to make it on my own, and I want to do everything myself. But he kept persisting."

The Heesch previously lived in a split-level house in Tea but moved in May of 2015 into a house without stairs inside in Dell Rapids.

Valerie Heesch said she works from home for Citibank, and her



Dave Meyerink, left, and Tim Schiebout guide a walk-in tub through a gate as Bruce Weinzettl pushes from the back Feb. 25, at the Heesch residence in Dell Rapids. (Photo: Micah Bader/Dell Rapids Tribune)

daughter, 21, is searching for employment.

Tiffany Heesch said she hopes the tub eases her mother's pain. "I know that she's been getting a little worse as the years go by, and I'm excited to see if it actually improves it," she said.

Farley said his favorite part of the job is talking to past recipients who feel better and sleep better because of the tub.

"It's not a public relations drive-by," he said. "We stay in touch with these people. When we give them a tub, they become part of our family."

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

## BATHING IS A BREEZE FOR 11-YEAR-OLD SINCE SHE GOT WALK-IN TUB

JACKSONVILLE.COM

Taking a bath seems like a simple thing for an 11-year-old. But for Nevaeh Crews, it was a taxing affair that required the aid of her mother. Until now.

Nevaeh, who lives in Callahan, suffered a stroke when she was 6 and was diagnosed with moyamoya, a rare progressive cerebrovascular disorder caused by blocked arteries at the base of the brain. It left her paralyzed on her right side, and she was

told she would never walk, talk or function like a normal child, said her mother, Eulissa Crews.

But she taught herself to do everything left handed, tie her shoes with one hand and write, walk and talk again, Crews said. However, 11-year-old girls do not want their mothers holding their hands while they are taking baths and sitting

with them the whole time, she said. Nevaeh wanted privacy and independence and had to be coaxed into the water. Her doctor

recommended a walk-in tub, but the family could not afford it.

Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., based in



Nashville, heard about her story and decided to help the family at no cost through its Safe Step Cares program, said Derek Farley, who oversees the program.

Since the tub was delivered a few days ago, Nevaeh has been begging to take a bath, Crews said.

“She’s been staying in there two hours,” she said.

It’s helped her muscles because she isn’t straining her body to get in and out of the tub, Crews said, adding that she’s been sleeping better and seems to be in less pain.

“The tub is awesome,” Crews said. “We appreciate it so much.”





## 4 MINNEAPOLIS WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVE FREE WALK-IN TUB

JENNIE LISSARRAGUE

A Facebook request led to a much-needed donation for four Minneapolis women.



The four women with intellectual disabilities have lived together for more than 30 years and are cared

for 24 hours a day, but social workers say their needs have become more challenging recently.

To help, the charitable program of Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. of

Minnesota donated a state-of-the-art hydrotherapeutic walk-in tub on



Tuesday, which will replace the women's cold-tiled, step-in shower.



"A conventional tub does not work for them, you know, getting in and out," Becky Narveson with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota said. "So now they'll be able to enjoy the bathing experience."

This is the first time anyone in Minneapolis has been a recipient of Safe Step's national program of giving, Safe Step Cares. The

but the owners say they had never received a request from someone in their hometown.



Minneapolis-based company has previously donated tubs to people outside of Minnesota,





## COMPANY SURPRISES 9-YEAR-OLD BATTLING MULTIPLE DISORDERS

BY NEAL WAGNER

ALABASTER – The list of 9-year-old Alabaster resident Kaitlyn Weaver’s favorite things is fairly simple: The color pink, puppies and peace signs.

On June 23, the Safe Step Walk-in Tub company found a way to incorporate all three into one of the biggest surprises Kaitlyn had ever experienced.

When returning to her house from a five-day hemophilia camp in Alexander City, Kaitlyn was greeted by a few dozen of her closest friends, supporters and family members as they celebrated the company’s gift to the Weaver family.

As Kaitlyn arrived at the house at about 1 p.m. riding in her mother, Michelle’s, car, Safe Step lifted a large box sitting in the front yard to unveil a

new walk-in therapeutic tub.

After Kaitlyn – who was all smiles throughout the afternoon – sat in the model tub for the first time, the company unveiled another surprise: The real tub was already installed in her bathroom.

A short time later, Kaitlyn got a demonstration on how to operate the tub from Safe Step

representatives Phil Melfa and Derek Farley. And to add a custom touch to the tub, the company placed a logo on the front depicting a peace sign, a heart and a dog paw, and ensured LED lights would illuminate the water pink, among other colors.

“It will feel amazing, especially with the arthritis in my feet,” said Kaitlyn, as



Nine-year-old Alabaster resident Kaitlyn Weaver, left, smiles as Safe Step Walk-in Tubs National Sales Manager Phil Melfa explains the therapeutic tub the company surprised her with on June 23. (Reporter Photo/Neal Wagner)

she looked down at the medical boot on her foot.

For Kaitlyn, the tub is especially meaningful.

For the past five years, she has battled multiple disorders including juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, hemophilia, which prevents her blood from clotting correctly, and Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, an autoimmune disorder

causing her blood vessels to become damaged easily.

Melfa, Safe Step’s national sales manager, said he was particularly impacted when he saw a video explaining Kaitlyn’s medical struggles.

“One thing that really hit me was when her dad, Scott, said ‘As a dad, I’m supposed to be able to fix everything, and I can’t fix this,’” Melfa said,

referencing the video. “I started balling right there in my driveway, and I said, ‘We are going to do something great to help this family.’”

Safe Step donates about one tub a month to families in need across the country through its “Safe Step Cares” program, but the ceremonies typically are small family affairs.

For several weeks, the Weavers worked to invite everyone they could to Kaitlyn’s surprise ceremony. In addition to friends, family members and neighbors all wearing matching pink shirts, the event also drew the Alabaster police and fire departments, the Alabaster mayor, members of the Thompson High School marching band, the Frio’s Gourmet Pops truck, UAB volleyball players, local cheerleaders and more.

Kaitlyn became the second Shelby County resident to receive a free Safe Step tub after Helena McDonald received one in 2013.

Scott Weaver said the tub will greatly help Kaitlyn, who has difficulty standing in a shower.

“This will make all the difference in the world. You just don’t know how excited we are,” Scott Weaver said, noting his daughter often is too sore to play with her friends. “It will help with her arthritis, it will help with her skin condition, it will really help with all of her disorders.

“The biggest thing is that it will create a better quality of life for her,” he said.





# BOY WITH JUVENILE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS RECEIVES SURPRISE, LIFE-CHANGING CHRISTMAS GIFT

ELLWOOD CITY, Pa.

A 12-year-old boy who has juvenile rheumatoid arthritis was surprised with a very special Christmas gift Wednesday.

It wasn't some toy or new clothes, but rather something that will change his life. Channel 11 News was in Ellwood City as Santa arrived with a new walk-in bath tub for Noah.

Jamie Jones, Noah's mother, said the tub has always been a



place for her son to relax on bad days.

"It is going to help his daily pain. It is going

to help with his anxiety. Noah has always gone to the tub when he didn't feel well," she said.

tub months ago, saying the girl, who is also battling juvenile rheumatoid arthritis,

It was Jones' generosity that actually helped him get the new tub. Jones had nominated a girl from Beaver Falls for her own walk-in

needed it as much as Noah.

When Safe Step delivered her tub, the community for an idea. Safe Step began getting dozens of nominations, asking the company to bring a new tub to Ellwood City as well. The girl from Beaver Falls was the first to submit Noah's name.

All those nominations got him the walk-in tub just in time for Christmas.

Noah and his family have raised thousands of dollars for juvenile rheumatoid arthritis awareness.



Noah hugs Derek Farley, the company program director of Safe Step Tubs





## HIGH POINT MAN RECEIVES SURPRISE LIFE-CHANGING GIFT FROM NASHVILLE-BASED SAFE STEP CARES

Earlier this year, Doug Dupler, a representative of Nashville-based Safe Step Walk-in Tub Co received a letter from the parents (Becky and Gerald Smith) of Jason Smith. The letter explained the year-long tumult being endured by their son, who in 2016 entered the emergency room with chest pains, which was initially diagnosed as pancreatitis.

During his stay, Jason's situation darkened and he was rushed to the ICU, where his heart stopped twice. Jason would be in the hospital for six months and during his stay, he endured a feeding tube for five months, six surgeries, dialysis, numerous CT scans, blood disease, liver

damage, diabetes and a ventilator with two drain tubes in his body.

Fast forward a year from original diagnosis and Jason is now on his second round of therapy in his home. During the ordeal, Jason has lost more than 100 pounds. Jason's wife Brittany lost her job six months ago after caring for Jason during his illness. They have a five-year old daughter and given the stack of medical bills, face financial hardships they could not have fathomed 15 months earlier.

Aware of his company's award-winning national program of giving Safe Step Cares, Dupler passed the letter



Doug Dupler (far left), Jason Smith (sitting), Derek Farley (far right)

along to company president Mike Duffer, who started the program based on a promise he made to his mother upon starting the business, in that if his company saw success (which it has), he would give back to those less fortunate (which he has). Duffer decided to help the Smiths with a state-of-the-art walk-in tub, FREE OF CHARGE.

Dupler, who installs Safe Step tubs as his profession, was so moved by the story that he decided to organize a golf tournament in order to help with the family's expenses ... before he learned of his president's intentions. More than 100 of Jason's Friends showed up at Meadowlands Golf Club on Good Friday,

raising more than \$9,000 for medical expenses.

And then to the surprise of everyone in attendance, Safe Step Cares coordinator Derek Farley read the parents letter to those in attendance and then unveiled the tub that was gift-wrapped with a large bow. "Safe Step is in the business of changing lives and we were touched by the community's outpouring of love. Doug believed in this donation and we believe in Doug so we are here because Safe Step Cares."





## SUSANVILLE TEENAGER SPURS NATIONWIDE PROGRAM OF GIVING

David Scarbrough, 17, weighed just 18 ounces at birth. At age 3, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. As David grows, his muscles struggle to keep up, but his spirit more than makes up for it. The key to David's heart and his rehabilitation is inside his home. He calls it Soaky.

In September 2012, David's mother, Ronette Scarbrough, was advised to find a walk-in tub to assist with David's mobility and therapy. Faced with rising medical costs from David's care, Ronette took her quest for the walk-in tub online. Andrea Allender, director of marketing at Nashville based Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company, one of the nation's leading walk-in tub providers that recently received the Ease-Of-Use Commendation by the

Arthritis Foundation, discovered the fundraising effort online and asked Safe Step's President and Owner Mike Duffer to change the Scarbroughs' lives forever in an instant.

"I found Ronette and David's story online and knew we could make a difference," said Allender. "So, I walked into Mike's office and said, 'Mike, we have to give them a tub.' Mike didn't hesitate. He decided on the spot to make the donation to assist the Scarbroughs."

When the home office called Ronette, her response was a little more than subtle.

"Oh my gosh, you guys are awesome," said Ronette. "I can't believe this is happening."

Soaky, you see, is a Safe Step's state of the art,



Who could have imagined Susanville teenager David Scarbrough, center, would inspire an effort to help those in need nationwide? He's shown here with his mother Ronette Scarbrough and Safe Step representative Derek Farley

top of the line walk-in tub, which was donated by Safe Step at no cost. David uses the tub up to seven times a day. His doctors, who recommended Safe Step by name, are as pleased as his mother.

"Since we've had the tub, David's mobility has improved. The swelling in his knees has been reduced dramatically," said Ronette. "When his doctors and

therapists heard about the donation, they were amazed and thrilled because they knew the therapeutic benefits of the tub were immense."

David and Ronette's story inspired Safe Step's nationwide initiative called, appropriately, Safe Step Cares.

Omaha, Nebraska's Anthony (Tony) Cato, Jr., a former quadriplegic disabled by an uninsured drunk driver, received Safe Step's first official Safe Step Cares donation in early April. He was able to take a bath unassisted for the first time in years. In late April, Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Company employees were so moved by a story about Selena Yorke, an 11-year-old Surrey, British Columbia, girl with

Friedreich's Ataxia, that they asked their president Robert J. Hartley II to help. He responded by donating a tub as well as a shower to assist Selena's family as they remodel their home to accommodate their beloved daughter. Canadian Safe Step even brought Selena her tub in a box in her favorite color: purple.

In Susanville, Soaky has provided comfort, safety, convenience and independence for David, even Ronette. "It's been a life-changing experience in our home," said Ronette. "Thank you just doesn't seem enough."



## WALK-IN SHOWER DONATED TO CRESTVIEW MANOR ADVOCATE

By News Bulletin  
contributor

CRESTVIEW — Four years ago, Crestview resident Shirley Perring wrote a letter to a dozen manufacturers asking for a walk-in tub for Crestview Manor on Pearl Street.

She described the bathing conditions as “something out of ‘One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.’” She added that residents at the low-to-no-income assisted living facility were playing bingo for toilet paper because funds were so scarce.

Nashville-based Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., was the only manufacturer that replied. The company’s founder, Mike Duffer, donated two hydrotherapeutic tubs, due to the number of residents,

and he decided to donate toilet paper for life at the facility.

Duffer and his PR agency’s president, Derek Farley, have made numerous visits to Crestview to meet with the Manor’s facility director, Becky Brice Nash, and Perring.

Recently, Perring’s daughter, Ronda, asked if she could arrange a donation: a walk-in shower for her mother, who has spent her entire life giving while never asking for something herself. Duffer immediately approved the request and Farley coordinated a scheme that would keep Shirley out of the house for six hours



Shirley Perring reacts upon seeing the walk-in shower that Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., installed as a surprise.

while the tub was being installed.

“Shirley is the very heartbeat of Safe Step Cares,” a media release from the company stated. “She is the poster person for the philanthropy; and when we heard that she could use an assist herself, giving her a shower was one of the quickest decisions in company history.”

plan.

Farley and Perring said their goodbyes in the parking lot of Cracker Barrel and then Farley raced to the Perring residence, where Ronda, daughter Sinder and husband Don were waiting.

When Perring entered her home, she yelled, “What is Derek’s rental car doing next door?” and “I can still smell his cologne.”

Farley met Perring for lunch after a few bogus meetings were created by her company, Jackson Hewitt, who knew about the

Busted, Farley tried to backpedal and say he just wanted to meet her husband and daughters. But it was too late, as Farley’s agency video guru John Deaver, had the cameras rolling. An installer was spotted and then Farley led her to the bathroom, where Perring broke down in tears upon seeing her new walk-in shower.

“This is beyond amazing,” she said. “Mike Duffer, Stuart (Hall, Safe Step CFO) and Derek are angels on earth. They restore my faith in companies, they restore my faith in humanity.”

Farley also visited Crestview Manor, treating the residents to pizza for lunch, which he delivered himself.

“I’m just a proud messenger with the greatest PR gig in the world,” he said. “Mike and Stuart give me the opportunity to play Superman but they are the real superheroes.”



Shirley Perring reacts upon seeing the walk-in shower that Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., installed as a surprise.

**SAFE STEP  
CARES**



## Special Donation for Basketball Camp Born out of Near Tragedy

WDIO Staff Writer Adam Roen loves basketball. He grew up dribbling and passing in the gym at the Eveleth Gilbert High School.

And now, he passes on that love to the next generation of Golden Bears, by hosting a basketball camp each summer. He and other volunteers help hone the kids' skills. He

remembers looking up to players when he was younger.

"I had older kids standing over me, and coaches too. I wanted to give back, and give back to the school," he explained.

Roen started the camp three years ago. And three years ago, he was still recovering from a near fatal crash.

He had stopped to help a woman and her grandson who had crashed off an icy I-35. But then, he was hit by a truck himself. But miraculously, managed to get the boy to safety beforehand.

His injuries were massive. And it took a great deal of rehab to get back into basketball shape. During that recovery time, he called Safe Step Tubs. When they heard his story, they donated a tub to him.

"I still have bad days. But that tub helps, I'm not going to deny it!" he grinned.

And when Safe Step Cares, the giving part of the company, heard about Roen's camp, they wanted to donate even more.

So, on Thursday, the final day of the 4-



day camp, they showed up with a \$1000 check, paid for lunch for the kids, and bought their T-shirts.

Derek Farley, from Safe Step Cares, told the kids, "He's

lucky to be alive. Not just in one in ten. But one in a million. And we all know how important basketball is to him. So, we decided to come up and donate

the money in his name."

Roen is very grateful. "I didn't think I'd hear from Safe Step Tubs again. When they called and said they wanted to do this, it meant so much to me."

Craig Dauffenbach, from Safe Step Tubs, told us, "I grew up in a small town too. Giving back is cool. If he didn't have the tub, he probably wouldn't be able to do the camp. One little domino effect can turn something even bigger."

Roen hopes the camp can continue to grow each year.



Golden Bears basketball camp on its final day, getting a donation from Safe Step Cares.





# BRANFORD RESIDENT RECIEVES LIFE-CHANGING WALK-IN TUB

It was too heavy for Santa's sleigh and too big to fit under the Christmas tree, but a state-of-art walk-in tub has made the holiday season much brighter for Branford resident Jimmy Cox.

Cox, 49, who suffers from Klinefelter syndrome, received the surprise gift last Thursday, December 15, as part of a national program of giving from Nashville-based Safe-Step Walk-In Tub Co. The program, aptly named Safe Step Cares, has donated 50 tubs in the past 5 years to those in need.

Through the Safe Step Cares web site, Cox received more than 30 nominations from his

friends and family in the area. It was enough to make Safe Step's monthly list of candidates. Safe Step receives dozens of nominations monthly, chooses the most deserving and then invites its team members to vote on the winner. Cox won November's popular vote.

"This is the gift of a lifetime and one that will change Jimmy's life forever," said Jimmy's mother, Helen Nonnemacher. "Safe Step not only donated the tub, they sent a team of professionals to install it and a video team to capture all of the excitement. They were so kind and Jimmy warmed up to them immediately."



Jimmy Cox (center) surrounded by family, friends and Derek Farley (far right) with Safe Step Cares.

Cox was diagnosed with Klinefelter syndrome as an infant. It is a chromosomal condition that affects male physical and cognitive development. Cox has also battled cancer and a number of other ailments and recently broke his leg.

Of the many nominations, one said, "Jimmy has never let his condition define him. He is upbeat and warm-hearted and possesses

an innocence that we all would like to have. He has just not had any luck health-wise but continues to smile and touch people. Jimmy just needs a shot in the arm of kindness."

On Thursday, the company came and installed the tub totally free of charge. Safe Step Cares coordinator Derek Farley said, "Jimmy is what the Safe Step Cares program is all about. This company changes lives every day with their product and our president Mike Duffer vowed to give back to those less fortunate from day one. We were impressed with the nominations. Our team of safety specialists felt he deserved an early Christmas present and we know our product will

bring comfort and joy to Jimmy."

Cox volunteers at a local food kitchen and is nicknamed The Meat Sheriff due to the seriousness in which he takes his duties of delegating the ham distribution for sandwiches. He was all smiles upon receiving the tub and expressed immense gratitude.

"Thank you so much," said Cox. "I am not sharing this with my mom and dad." With his mom in a warm embrace and surrounded by loved ones, he reconsidered and said, "Well, maybe with my mom."





# The Salt Lake Tribune

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018

## Safe Step Cares Gives Sandy Resident the Dream Gift of a Lifetime

Born with Spina Bifida 33 years ago and having persevered through 20 spinal surgeries and an autoimmune disorder called Pyoderma Gangrenosum (yes, that “Gang Green”), Shauna Byland could have wished for anything from perfect health to a new spine.

But her wish was for something that almost everyone takes for granted: the ability to bathe safely. Her parents, Cindy and Mike, strapped with medical bills related to Shauna’s health conditions, were unable to grant their daughter’s reasonable request.

So, Cindy decided to write a company in Nashville, Tennessee, who indisputably makes the premiere walk-in tub on the market, Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co. She submitted a nomination for consideration for a free tub through the company’s nationally-recognized philanthropy Safe Step Cares.

Safe Step, which has donated more than 50 tubs in five years and receives dozens of submissions monthly, put it under consideration along with other deserving nominations. Then, it did something even more remarkable: they asked their valued team members to vote on the program’s next recipient.

Cindy’s nomination on behalf of her ailing daughter won the popular vote. And earlier this month, Shauna received her dream gift in the form of a state-of-the-art walk-



in tub. And it wasn’t a public relations fly-by. Company representatives from Charlotte and Birmingham, along with employees of Canadian Safe Step, the dealer representative which serves the Salt Lake City community, flew or drove in to

make the delivery and installation in person.

“Safe Step Cares is the giving heart of a very caring and different company,” said Safe Step Cares overseer Derek Farley. “Our team members take this program very seriously and it starts at the top with Mike (president Duffer), Stuart (CFO Hall) and Demie (COO Angelocci). The company sees the program as karma in that the more they give, the more success they achieve and personally, I think they are right.”

Farley declined to disclose the value of the tub and installation, saying, “First, the ability to provide this is priceless. Second, all jobs are custom and this one was free so it’s not about the money. It’s about the fact that Safe Step Cares.”

Shauna took the first “safe bath” of her life and gave

the tub an A+. “It relieved my chronic pain and eased my nerve damage. I can’t believe they chose me but I couldn’t be happier and am amazed that people who haven’t even met me gave me my dream gift of a lifetime.”

getting the smile off of my face today.”

The same could be said for the entire Bylund family, thanks to Safe Step Cares.



Farley downplayed it but with a wink-wink: “Mike (Duffer) is the real deal. This is his program and I am just the messenger. But good luck

