

# ATV accidents unite patients at Madonna for hope and healing

Cody Tracy and Patrick Moppin both enjoyed the thrill of riding an all-terrain vehicle, or ATV. And, it was an ATV that drastically changed both of these young men's lives.

On Nov. 11, 2007, Cody was enjoying a day away from his studies at Washburn University with his brother, Cooper. The brothers rode their ATVs over the sand dunes in Alva, Okla. and decided to make one last pass before ending their day. Cody, 22, flew off the edge of a towering dune, lost control and landed face down in a pool of water. The accident resulted in severe damage to his spinal cord. He was lifelighted to Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, Kan., where he was stabilized. Cody transferred to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital on Nov. 28, where he met with his rehabilitation team and expressed his determination to rebuild his stamina and heal his body.

Patrick Moppin, whose room is two doors down from Cody's, has similar rehabilitation goals. Patrick, 27, of Weston, Mo., was on a camp out with friends Dec. 9, 2007, the night before deer season opened. They hoped to make this an annual event. Patrick was a passenger on an ATV when the driver attempted to back up in the dark and plunged into a 15-foot ravine. The vehicle landed on Patrick, causing extensive injuries to his spinal cord.

A dozen of Patrick's friends assisted the EMTs at the scene, extracting Patrick from the ravine via a back board. Patrick spent 11 days in the North Kansas City Hospital's intensive care unit where he underwent surgery to repair his compressed vertebrae and damaged spinal cord.

On Dec. 20, he transitioned to Madonna, but his mother, Patti, said he was in a very fragile state. "He was weak from being in a total body brace

and having 7 inches of hip bone taken out during surgery in Kansas City," Patti recalled. Patrick, a vocational tech school graduate and auto store employee, agreed, "I was weak, but anxious to begin therapy." Soon afterward, he met up with Cody.

"Patrick and I started pushing each other in therapy along with the other spinal cord patients,"

said Cody. Both young men appreciated the team approach to rehabilitation that Madonna employs. "It's like a miniature community with the nurses, doctors and therapists all working together," Cody added. Patrick and Cody both hold the nursing staff in high regard and appreciate their ability to build a caring patient relationship.

Patrick made great strides in therapy, tackling transfers and rebuilding his upper body. He transitioned to the family four-plex in mid-January and recently discharged. Patrick plans to continue with

outpatient therapy in the greater Kansas City area.

Cody continues to work on upper body strength and maneuvering his wheelchair. "Dr. K (Paul Krabbenhoft) and Kip (Ransom) put all my concerns at ease. I feel a real connection with them," Cody stated. He will continue therapy into February at Madonna. His future plans include finishing his bachelor's degree and adapting to life back home in Wichita.



Patients Patrick Moppin and Cody Tracy share a light moment with the first floor night staff. (Front L to R) Patrick, Tracy Goodyear, Gail Shiba, Cody and Patti Mischke. (Back L to R) Taunya Frauendorfer, Ashley Myers and Linda Schroeder.

*(Be sure to read the update on the Web site about Patrick after he returned to Madonna in April 2008.)*