



Lee Woodruff to speak at Madonna Chairman's Goal Awards

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is pleased to feature Lee Woodruff as keynote speaker for the Madonna Chairman's 2008 Goal Awards luncheon on Monday, Sept. 29, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Neb. As co-author of *In an Instant*, the *New York Times* No. 1 best seller, Lee Woodruff shares her story of a family in crisis and healing following the blast injury suffered by her husband, *ABC's World News Tonight* co-anchor Bob Woodruff, while he was covering the war in Iraq. Woodruff speaks with grace and humor about her experience and how the strength of family is made even stronger through the support of friends, medical specialists, colleagues and even kind strangers. During the long recovery and rehabilitation process, the Woodruffs became determined to shed light on traumatic brain injury and combat stress injuries often suffered by injured military service men and women.

In addition to honoring this year's Goal Award recipients, the event will also feature a tribute to the injured military personnel Madonna



Lee Woodruff

Rehabilitation Hospital has had the privilege to serve through partnerships with the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense.

2008 Goal Award Honorees

Joan Bunton was driving along a country highway when she felt a heavy pressure in her chest. She made the 20-mile drive back home, where she called 911 and was taken to the nearest hospital. Joan coded twice during the transfer to Bryan LGH in Lincoln, Neb. After open heart surgery, Joan was put into a coma to ease her recovery. Unfortunately, complications arose that required the amputation of her right leg. After six weeks of intensive care, Joan came to Madonna for rehabilitation. She was weaned off her ventilator and worked hard with her nurses and therapists to regain her strength and mobility. Joan's family was with her every step, offering encouragement and support. Joan was so pleased with her experience, she now volunteers as a Madonna Peer Volunteer for other patients who have endured an amputation or heart attack.



2008 Goal Award Recipient - Joan Bunton

Dusty Feil had just finished a day's harvesting and was driving a filled grain truck with his wife and two nephews when he lost control and crashed in a ravine by the side of the road. A telephone pole guide wire sliced through the cab, severing Dusty's left arm and causing a traumatic brain injury. Dusty was lifeflighted to Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita, Kans., where doctors told his wife, Janeen, that Dusty may not make it through the night. Dusty survived several surgeries and was in a coma for a month before coming to Madonna for rehabilitation. With intensive rehabilitation therapy and help from Janeen and both of their families, Dusty regained strength and improved cognitive functions. Since returning



2008 Goal Award Recipient - Dusty Feil

home with Janeen to Luray, Kan., Dusty has resumed farming and has helped renovate his house. "There's nothing I can't do when I set my mind to it," says Dusty, "It just takes a little longer."

Stephanie Wever was used to health challenges. She was born with a hole in her heart that required several surgeries and when she reached age

Now you can.



2008 Goal Award Recipient - Stephanie Wever

twelve, doctors replaced part of her aorta with a mechanical heart valve. Stephanie overcame three small strokes before she was eighteen. She thought she her health problems were behind her, but while working one evening in 2005, Stephanie fell to ground, suffering a massive stroke. Stephanie knew something was wrong and asked a co-worker to phone her fiancé, Derek. Derek immediately drove her to the nearest emergency room in Omaha, Neb., and less than a week later, Stephanie arrived at Madonna. Her left side was weak and she didn't have the strength to sit up. Slowly she regained balance and worked on her speech. Her therapy teams incorporated her wedding planning

into her sessions. Her positive attitude and strong family support helped her to remain determined and motivated throughout her rehabilitation. On May 18, 2007, Stephanie accomplished her main goal—to walk down the aisle at her wedding and clearly say, “I do.”


Jeromie Meyer approaches life like a talented basketball player tasked with making a game-winning shot. He's poised and confident. These valuable traits were put to the test when a drunk driver struck Jeromie while he and big sister, Bailee, rode their bikes near his family's home in Woodbine, Iowa. When he arrived at Madonna in April 2007, Jeromie had limited sensation and movement. He worked for hours in therapy every day, relearning to do the things that used to be part of his daily routine, like tying shoes, standing up and brushing his teeth. Jeromie said aquatic therapy was his favorite because it made him feel like he was “normal” again. Both Jeromie and Bailee benefited from the Therapeutic Learning Center where an education specialist worked with the pair to help them keep up with schoolwork. Today, Jeromie's high spirits are evident as he participates in adaptive sports and recreation activities. He's a member of a national champion junior wheelchair basketball team and



2008 Goal Award Recipient - Jeromie Meyer

he continues to work with therapists from Madonna TherapyPlus on an outpatient basis to further improve his mobility.

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