Meyer Family Update

Friends and Family of Paul Meyer Family Organize Fundraiser

Publisher's Note: Most of our readers are aware of the Paul Meyer story and have followed the details in Tualatin Life and other media. In an effort to assist with some of the financial burdens of retrofitting the Meyer home to accommodate Paul's wheelchair, there are fundraising efforts to try to assist. This story was submitted by Karen Schmitt, a longtime family friend of the Meyers'. - JC

SUBMITTED BY: KAREN SCHMITT

Last November, life changed in an instant for Tualatin resident and Portland Police Officer, Paul Meyer. While completing an ATV training course on Hayden Island on a stormy and wet Portland afternoon, Paul was struck by a falling tree and sustained life-altering injuries. Suffering from a broken neck, back and clavicle, Paul is now permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

After spending many weeks in the hospital and rehabilitation unit, on January 9, 2013, Paul was able to leave the hospital and return to his family. However, he was not able to return to the family's home which is not wheelchair-accessible. Paul, his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Russell (10 years-old) and Matthew (7 years-old) are now living in a temporary Tualatin rental

(7 years-old) are now living in a temporary Tualatin rental house while they wait for their home to be remodeled and retro-fitted to meet Paul's needs. In fact, on a recent visit to their home, Paul was only able to get into the garage as he cannot maneuver the stairs to get into the house. The family is waiting for the Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund to examine the plans for the remodel/retrofit and determine the percentage of the project that the fund will cover. There will most likely be a gap that the Meyers will have to cover, and this is a grave concern. With Paul on disability leave and facing a decrease in income, the need for raising funds to help cover the building costs is evident.

The Meyers' story is a compelling one, and has drawn many supporters within the Portland community. After significant news coverage when the accident occurred, it was easy for people to get a glimpse of the kind of person that Paul Meyer is. He has faced this extreme adversity with grace and positivity, and handles the attention humbly. He is working hard every day to get stronger and is quickly adjusting to his new "normal." Paul plans on returning to a job with the Portland Police Department as soon as he's healthy and strong enough, and wants to continue to help others in our community. He is a remarkable man who, despite facing such grave injuries and life-long challenges, is grateful. Paul is grateful

to be here with his wife and kids, grateful to be able to hug his family, grateful to be alive.

As a longtime friend of the family, I am working with a small group of others to organize a fundraiser to collect donations that will help the



Meyer family return to their home. They want nothing more than to get back into their home and to get their two young boys back to their neighborhood and friends. They are longtime Tualatin residents and live in a close-knit neighborhood with an incredible support system of neighbors and friends. We need to get them home.

On April 13th, from 7pm to midnight, we will be celebrating Office Paul Meyer and his family with a show of support and donations. The event will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Portland Hilton Hotel, and will feature Portland pianist Michael Allen Harrison and local band "Big Night Out." Craig Walker, former Portland radio personality and friend of the Meyer family, will be hosting the evening.

For event details, go to **www.officerpaulmeyer. com**. Go to the "Fundraising Events" link on the site to purchase tickets or, if you are unable to attend, to make a donation to the Meyer family. No donation is too small and they are all greatly appreciated.



Karen Schmitt is a life-long Tigard resident. She, her husband, and their three kids live in Tigard and are active in the Tigard/Tualatin communities. She is currently the PSO President at Deer Creek Elementary, where her kids attend school.

Please Join Us

FOR AN EVENING BENEFITING

OFFICER PAUL MEYER & FAMILY

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 ● 7:00 P.M.

HILTON PORTLAND GRAND BALLROOM

Featuring

MICHAEL ALLEN HARRISON

PIANO • 7:00-8:30 P.M.

BIG NIGHT OUT

MUSIC & DANCING • 8:45 P.M.-MIDNIGHT

HORS D'OEUVRES & NO-HOST BAR

\$75 PER PERSON

TICKETS @ WWW.OFFICERPAULMEYER.COM

ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP THE MEYERS
RETRO-FIT THEIR HOME

ADULTS ONLY - NOT-TOO-FUSSY PARTY ATTIRE

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE (GO TO WEBSITE FOR DETAILS)

QUESTIONS? • CONTACT KAREN.SCHMITT@ME.COM

HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF PAUL & MARY MEYER

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR DONATING THEIR TIME & SERVICES
TO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE:

CRAIG WALKER, MICHAEL ALLEN HARRISON, BIG NIGHT OUT, BOOYAH CREATIVE,
MAX GIVING, MELVIN MARK PARKING, BRILLIANT BLOOMS