

KIRSTEN AND ANDREW SKINNER

B.S. BUSINESS '04

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Kirsten and Andrew Skinner met at CI, fell in love, graduated in 2004 and looked forward to a bright future.

Later that year, during a family ski trip, Andrew had a snowboarding accident that left him a quadriplegic. Kirsten was with him and has remained by his side ever since.

Determined to continue leading a happy, healthy, active life, Andrew made a commitment to recovery both for himself and others.

The couple has since married and, in 2008, started Triumph Foundation. Andrew is the Executive Director and Kirsten is the Treasurer. Both serve on the organization's board of directors.

Triumph Foundation coordinates bedside hospital visits, provides financial assistance through grants, runs support groups and mentoring programs, and holds adaptive recreational events.

"Our goal is to see people rebuild their lives," says Andrew, who now plays wheelchair rugby in his free time. "It's very rewarding to give someone hope for the future, assist them on the road to recovery, watch them reemerge into the

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community and then become ambassadors for us."

To date, the organization has touched more than 2,500 individuals with disabilities, distributed $80,000 to those with inadequate medical insurance and performed seven home remodels. However, one of its most important activities is providing care baskets for the newly injured.

"We started with the care baskets, and they remain dear to my heart," says Kirsten. "Delivering them and sharing the information we've compiled over many years makes me, as an able-bodied person, feel like I'm doing something to help."

The Skinners, who say they appreciate the tremendous support received from their fellow CI alums, hope to grow Triumph Foundation into a nationwide service organization.

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