



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION RECEIVES \$8900 GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION FOR WHEELCHAIR RUGBY PROJECT**

**WESTLAKE, OH – FEBRUARY 08, 2008 – CEAI** is proud to announce that it has received a \$8,900 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. The award was one of almost 100 grants totaling almost \$800,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations that help people living with disabilities become more fully integrated members of society.

**CEAI** has used the grant for the Quad Rugby Implementation Project, which seeks to introduce Quadriplegic Wheelchair Rugby to India. Headed by Jonathan Sigworth, a quadriplegic student at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, the QIP team brought 10 donated rugby wheelchairs to the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi, India in January, 2008. During three weeks at ISIC the team trained therapists, coaches and players in the rules and tactics of the game, and assembled the special armored rugby wheelchairs. The sport was received with much enthusiasm as former athletes--including a professional hockey player--who had become quadriplegics through spinal-cord injuries, were at last able to play a high-speed, full-contact sport. The first exhibition game on January 15, 2008 was covered in television and print media. An article appeared in the Times of India, Delhi edition on January 15, entitled "When Rugby Plays Liberator".

**We salute the Hartford Chapter and the Reeve Foundation for investing their finances and efforts to improve the quality of life for those in India who have incurred spinal cord injuries.**

"As the late Dana Reeve once stated, our Quality of Life grants are about freedom," said Peter T. Wilderotter, president of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. "CEAI's Hartford Chapter in cooperation with the Sigworth family provides hope for individuals living with paralysis and their caregivers who are every day striving to improve their physical and emotional well-being. We are honored to help CEAI's Hartford Chapter continue the heartfelt mission that Dana Reeve herself started back in 1999. "

The Reeve Foundation's Quality of Life grant program, started by the late Dana Reeve, acknowledges the ever present and demanding needs of people living with paralysis and other disabilities and the importance to enable individuals to maintain a positive and fulfilling quality of life. To date, the Reeve Foundation has awarded 1,454 Quality of Life grants totaling nearly \$12 million to organizations nationwide that help improve opportunities, access and day-to-day quality of life for individuals and their families.

### About the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) or call 800-225-0292.

Christian Educators Association International [www.ceai.org](http://www.ceai.org) 888-798-1124

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