

The Amputee Support Fund at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital

Magee Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia is the leading rehabilitation hospital in the area treating individuals who have suffered traumatic, life changing injuries such as brain or spinal cord injuries, stroke, or amputations. Magee's mission is to *improve the quality of life of individuals with disabilities*.

In 2008 and 2009 Magee treated 87 individuals in our amputee service as inpatients, and 95 as outpatients. Over 200 individuals with amputations utilize Magee for ongoing care needs such as follow-up doctor visits, prescription renewal and medical supply services, as well as support groups and case management assistance.

It is very common for our patients to have needs that are not covered by insurance, often leaving them with tough decisions to face and tough challenges to overcome. A fund like this can really help them through those challenges and allow them to live healthy, active, and productive lives, while worrying less about financial challenges they face.

Our therapists, doctors, and nurses have identified several items that are often needed by our patients that often present financial burdens to them. The following are medical equipment items:

- Commode and Shower chairs- \$75 to \$200
- Rolling walkers- \$100 to \$200
- Manual wheelchairs- \$800 and \$3,000
- Additional Therapy sessions to finish prosthetic training- \$85 per session
- Stairglide for the home- approximately \$2,000 (sometimes on a rental basis, or permanent)
- Shower grab bars- \$300 to \$500
- Ramps and home modifications- costs can vary based on needs

In addition to the above items, there are numerous needs that can improve the quality of life of these individuals. These can often be as important as their medical needs. These items often include:

- Prosthetic cleaning products- \$20
- Residual limb antiperspirant/deodorant- \$20
- Diabetic socks- \$8 to \$30 per sock
- Diabetic shoes- \$150 to \$540 per pair
- Nutritional Support
- Membership in Amputee Coalition of America- \$35 each year
- Outing with Magee Amputee Support group- \$50 to \$100
- Driving lessons- \$1,000 to \$2,000
- Vehicle modifications- \$750 to \$1,500

This is just a small sampling of items that can truly make a difference in the lives of our patients who are dealing with amputations. Our Case Managers, Nurses, and Therapists, who are actively treating these patients would be made aware of this fund, and could help individuals seek support from it.

The funds would be kept in a donor restricted fund through the Magee Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation with responsible parties designated to approve requests for its use.