

Success Story Evan Cummings



“Being able to drive changed my whole life.”

—Evan Cummings

In the Driver’s Seat

A seemingly harmless fall at age 13 left Evan Cummings paralyzed from the neck down, although he has limited arm movement. His physical challenge, however, never deterred him from following his dreams—one of which was to drive.

“What makes DriveOn unique,” said Frank Cogliandro, Director of Physical Rehabilitation Services, “is that we have the equipment, talent and heart to give people their independence.”

Twenty-one year veteran driver rehabilitation specialist Pam Gabryel was the heart that Evan needed. She discovered that Evan required a hand-controlled unit that allowed him to steer, accelerate and brake, and a touch pad for managing secondary controls including lights, directionals and wipers. After a successful

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Pam Gabryel

Twenty-one years ago, this high school teacher of physical and driver education decided to make driver training her full-time gig. Pam said, “It’s fantastic to help people become more independent.”



This minivan is equipped with a hand-controlled unit that allows Evan to steer, accelerate and brake without the use of his legs.

evaluation, Pam prepared the minivan, one of seven adapted vehicles in the DriveOn fleet, to begin Evan's training. "He had the knowledge," said Pam, "and with the right adapted driving equipment, he could succeed."

"I was thrilled when I earned my license," said Evan. "Having the ability to drive myself anywhere was the biggest step of independence I'd had since the injury."

In the years since he completed his driver training, Evan has achieved much. In 2005, he graduated magna cum laude from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, where he studied drama. "My ability to drive from college to Rochester and back was a big accomplishment," said Evan. "I could do it on my own."

Armed with ability, knowledge and confidence, Evan pursued yet another dream—to direct theater in New York City. "Learning to drive gave me the confidence to do bigger and better things," said Evan, "and say this is a possibility for me."

With an objective evaluation, the right adaptive equipment and proper training, people with various medical conditions can drive safely.

To learn more about DriveOn, please call **585.271.1894** or toll-free at **1.877.823.7483**, or send an email to info@driveonrocks.org.

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Helping people drive safely