

# EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



## FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Number of pages including cover 7

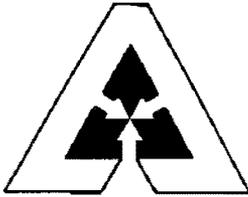
Date 1/10/94

To Jan Herr

FAX Number 6-7028

Comments Two things: (1) I've enclosed a sample HUD budget letter  
'draft response for your format (2) I'm also faxing a letter from  
the Nat'l Coalition for Handicapped that I think needs a more detailed  
reply. Thanks for your help!

From Deborah Pearlstein <sup>6</sup> V. 2248 Fax 6-2806



**THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS, INC.**

December 17, 1993

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing as co-chairmen of the National Alliance to End Homelessness to urge you to maintain at least the FY 94 budget level of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD programs are the bedrock of efforts to salvage and improve our urban areas. Unfortunately, during the 1980s, HUD bore the brunt of domestic budget cuts. HUD's FY 94 budget of \$25.2 billion is just 40% of the agency's 1980 level, adjusted for inflation.

We know of your own deep concern for the homeless and we appreciate that the Administration is supporting good levels of assistance to homeless people through the HUD McKinney programs. But long-term solutions to homelessness lie in "mainstream" HUD programs like assisted housing, the Community Development Block Grant, and public housing. These programs already fall far short of need (HUD estimates that at least 5.1 million renter households need, but do not receive, assistance), and further reductions will prevent us from ending homelessness for those already on the street and in emergency programs. We believe that reductions may risk adding significantly to the number of homeless people. Crime and urban decay will continue to flourish in an environment where millions of Americans cannot count on the basic necessity of a decent place to live.

We recognize the very difficult budgetary conditions and competing demands you face this year. Nevertheless, on behalf of our 1,750 member organizations and poor and homeless people across the nation, we ask you to refrain from further cuts in the HUD budget. With adequate resources, we are hopeful that you and Secretary Cisneros can help to assure that no American should have to be homeless.

Sincerely,

Susan G. Baker  
Co-Chairman

Anthony S. Harrington  
Co-Chairman

cc: The Honorable Henry Cisneros  
The Honorable Leon Panetta

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Co-Chairmen**  
Susan G. Baker  
Anthony S. Harrington

**Secretary**  
Elizabeth Boyle Roberts

**Treasurer**  
Thomas Ludlow Ashley

**President**  
Thomas L. Kenyon

**Members**  
Susan A. Davis  
Barbara J. Easterling  
Margaret M. Graham  
James A. Johnson  
Thomas G. Ness  
Gary M. Parsons  
D. Eric Pogue  
James Dennis Rash  
John P. Roe  
Arman R. Simons  
Robert S. Strauss

Bob Vila  
Robert D. Villency  
William C. Walbrecker  
Dionas Warwick  
Howard R. Williams III  
Gustaf F. Worden  
H. J. Young

**Past Chairmen**  
Rabbi Martin Siegel  
John W. Macy, Jr.  
Clifford L. Alexander, Jr.

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / dnp /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/natl.homelessness.dnp

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Jan 10 1994 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 1254519

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: Stan Herr, Domestic  
Policy  
Deborah Pearlstein, 94  
OEOB

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

Susan G. Baker and Anthony S.  
Harrington  
Co-Chairmen  
The National Alliance To End  
Homelessness, Inc.  
1518 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 206  
Washington, D.C. 20005

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:

Per Stan Herr, ODP

*Q: Ms. Baker + Mr. Harrington*

Dear Susan:

*and Anthony*

Thank you for your letter regarding funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. I share your deep concern for our nation's homeless people, and my Administration is working hard to help *prevent and relieve homelessness* ~~bring our citizens in from the streets.~~

As HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros has stated, addressing the problem of homelessness is his Department's number one priority. This commitment goes beyond providing emergency shelter for those in most desperate need, to developing long-term solutions for families and communities across the country. In making budgetary decisions for the coming year, let me assure you that I will keep these goals in mind.

My Administration is continuing to move forward in our efforts to end the tragedy of homelessness in this country. I appreciate your involvement, and I hope I can count on your support.

Sincerely,



PL

Suzan -  
Deborah Karlstein  
x 6224 sent  
this time:  
She's trying  
to prepare a  
response to  
the President;  
I suggested  
she contact  
Marsha Martin,  
Andrew Cuomo  
Catherine Cold!

### National Coalition for the Homeless

November 19, 1993

To: President William J. Clinton  
Secretary Henry Cisneros  
Secretary Donna Shalala  
Secretary Robert Reich  
Secretary Mike Espy  
Secretary Jesse Brown  
Secretary Richard Riley  
Secretary Hazel O'Leary  
Secretary Janet Reno  
Secretary Ronald H. Brown

From: National Coalition for the Homeless Board of Directors

It is time to issue a wake-up call to reclaim America. For America is not simply a geographic location, but more importantly, it is an idea...an idea waiting to be lived. We call on you, we need you - the new Administration - to lead our citizens in bringing this idea to life.

The United States has too long neglected the socio-economic infra-structure needed to prevent homelessness. Instead, our social and economic policies of the last twelve years have created and exacerbated the most visible and extreme face of poverty - homelessness. We had high hopes that a new administration would act decisively to address the systemic causes of homelessness. But it now appears that the Clinton administration does not yet understand why homelessness exists and is, therefore, currently ill-equipped to eliminate this tragic condition in the wealthiest nation in the world. We fear the administration does not understand how close we are to insuring that hundreds of thousands more people will experience homelessness, many of them the same people who, only yesterday, were appalled by their predecessors.

Homelessness is an experience of extreme poverty, not a set of so called damaged people. Homelessness is a consequence of a flawed socio-economic system which no longer supports a large number of our nation's citizens. Homelessness is the inevitable outcome of social and economic policy that allowed billions of dollars to be cut from spending on subsidized housing over the last decade; a minimum wage to go unchanged for nine years while inflation constantly reduced its value, and an antiquated health system which never did view the poor as whole human beings worthy of equality and full care. Homelessness is racism, as reflected in the disproportionate number of people of color who constitute this

with,  
and you  
if she  
wishes  
guidance  
on this  
broad  
critique  
of anti-  
poverty  
approach  
Stan

nation's homeless population.

Homeless people are fundamentally formerly housed citizens. And that is the defining circumstance of their lives. If we do not have an adequate amount of affordable quality housing, no policy or program development can be effective in eliminating homelessness.

Homeless people, advocates and providers have been responding to the crisis of homelessness for decades. In doing so, we have come to clearly understand that not only do we have inadequate housing and income resources for people trying to reintegrate into the larger society, but we also have had to struggle with an inadequate social support system unable, and at times unwilling, to assist them as necessary. As a consequence, we needed to develop programs to replace inept systems; we had to construct shelters to keep people from dying; we had to care for persons removed from the back wards of mental hospitals whose only alternatives were the back ways of our streets. For you see, once affordable housing had been transformed into parking lots, office buildings and gentrified residences, mainstream systems supported by public funding had been gutted.

As long as homelessness is viewed as a collective of human frailties, as long as we define mercy as just as long as we lack a national industrial policy, we will remain incapable of an adequate response to the increasing rate and extent of poverty that our nation's people are suffering. We will continue to perpetuate the myth that America, as it is currently functioning, is capable of providing the basic human needs of housing, food, clothing, health care, and dignity for all our people. Our leadership must dare to admit the socio-economic reasons for our ever increasing levels of poverty, or it must then honestly forecast a future filled with more of the same. We have succumbed to a greater commitment to the tenets of democracy and opportunity. As a result, competition for limited meaningful job, housing and education opportunities has proven fertile ground for seeding persistent racism, the angry precursors to violence and a growing mistrust of the other. "Creating Communities of Opportunity," a recently published HUD document, should mean creating communities vested in social infrastructure that fulfills their basic human needs and nothing less. Shelters to replace housing, no begging to replace jobs, no hallucinating to replace medicating, no condemning the victim to replace the responsibility we owe one another.

Your administration, through Secretary Cisneros, has identified addressing homelessness as a top priority. It has acted to address some of the immediate emergency needs of people living on the street today by advocating for the expansion of the Supportive Housing program and creating the Innovative Homeless Fund. But, with the notable exception of pushing for the expanded EITC program for families and childless individuals, the steps that have been taken have only been stopgap measures which will have little impact on stemming the growth of homelessness.

We are ashamed to know that the Clinton Administration's proposed increase in Section 8 housing was lower than the average annual increase during the Bush years. We are shocked to discover that the "D. C. Initiative" is being proposed as the national model to eliminate homelessness given its inability to address the reality and extent of the problem in the nation's capital. It overemphasizes the development of a few service-laden transitional housing units, while at the same time failing to respond at anywhere near the scale appropriate to the need for affordable housing in a city where tens of thousands of people are homeless.

Furthermore, we want to ask why in the process of creating the D.C. Initiative, homeless and formerly homeless persons, providers and advocates have not had substantial participation in developing the model. Finally we want to warn the Clinton Administration to avert ultimate failure by administering this Initiative as a national cure-all. The plan cannot fit all geographic areas across this country. The faces and stories of homelessness reach far beyond major urban areas into the suburbs, small towns and rural communities of the United States.

There are hundreds and hundreds of models of effective and meaningful programs that have been developed and modified as needed to respond to homeless families and individuals in ways that have ended their homelessness permanently. Most of these programs have been developed by private non-profits whose governance boards include homeless people and who "work the streets," and because of this can understand and clearly define the needs of homeless people from direct and constant contact and collaboration with them. Why change what we know works? The problem is not that we do not have highly successful programs that the government has funded. The problem, rather, is that for every family or individual successfully served, there are at least one or two more to take their place on the line of need. Fundamental socio-economic change still is not the guiding principle and corrective programs cannot substitute for substantive change.

Lastly, we need policies and programs aimed at providing for all Americans:

1. a liveable income that forces no family or individual below the poverty level;
2. affordable, quality housing in which we can live safely;
3. a sound health care system founded in health services for the whole person.

We cannot continue with politics as usual - the slow fight for incremental change with deference to local political control - not only stymies reform, but has

generally worsened matters for poor and homeless people. The idea of America is founded on equal opportunity and a sense of dignity. This is what we need to stand for, now more than ever, as countries all over the world are encouraged to become democracies and we, who always have been, need to demonstrate that democracy is right for all the people of a nation, not simply for those with more than they need.

Homeless coalitions across the country will be listening very carefully to what the federal plan will look like, will be listening very carefully to see if the response matches the extent and growth of the problem. Please understand that we are part of the citizenry who elected you. We cannot wait any longer for you to enunciate a national vision that leads the country's citizens in reforming a socio-economic infrastructure that presently inevitably creates homelessness. Our visibility will become very obvious when you announce the plan. We invite you to assume the leadership required to end homelessness.

CC: Andrew Cuomo

April 7, 1994

Judy S. Iskowitz, Ph.D.  
Educational Consultant  
Unit 1F  
33 Baxter Road  
Willington, Connecticut 06279

Dear Judy:

Thank you for your letter regarding the inclusion of students with disabilities and the new Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Judith Heumann. Her appointment reflects my Administration's commitment to providing a quality education for all of our children.

Time and again, I have heard parents of students with disabilities express frustration over the lack of options available to meet their child's particular educational needs. For this important reason, my 1995 budget contains significant increases in funding for special education programs. In keeping with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, my Administration is committed to helping states and communities to provide a free, appropriate education to all children. By encouraging the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education, these initiatives go a long way toward offering students with disabilities the individual attention and choices they each deserve.

I'm glad to know we share a deep concern for enhancing the capabilities of our nation's young people, and I welcome your involvement as we work to make their dreams become reality.

Sincerely,

**BILL CLINTON**

BC/DNP/ps (Corres. #1404467)  
(4.iskowitz.js)

cc: Stan Herr, ODP

Dear Governor:

I am pleased to share details of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging with you.

As you may know, President Kennedy convened the first White House Conference on Aging in 1961 to address important issues relating to older Americans. Subsequent White House Conferences on Aging were held in 1971 and 1981. It is with great pleasure that I announce the upcoming May 1995 White House Conference because it will play a significant role in the longstanding tradition of White House Conferences on Aging. Fourteen years will have passed since the last Conference was held. The 1995 Conference will be the cornerstone of our national effort to focus necessary attention and develop policy initiatives in the field of aging, leading our country into the twenty-first century.

The Older Americans Act, which authorizes the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, designates the Secretary of Health and Human Services as the Cabinet officer responsible for planning the Conference. Last fall I announced the selection of Robert Blancato as Executive Director, and soon I will appoint a Policy Committee and Chairperson for the Conference.

Input into the agenda of the 1995 White House on Aging will come from a variety of sources, including Members of Congress; the Department of Health and Human Services; other Cabinet Departments and independent Federal agencies; State, Territorial and local governments; and the private sector. A high priority of this Administration is to ensure maximum participation by older Americans at the local and State levels into the development of the 1995 Conference agenda. To facilitate this goal, the White House Conference on Aging is currently planning Regional conferences, State conferences, mini-conferences on selected topics and local events.

Further information regarding funding levels and application procedures for State conferences will be forthcoming this month. Information regarding the delegate selection process to the Conference will be sent to you promptly after the Policy Committee reaches consensus on this issue.

Your active support and participation in the proud tradition of White House Conferences on Aging will be critical to the success of the 1995 Conference. I believe we can work together to stimulate public attention to the challenges facing older Americans and future generations, as well as identify common goals and solutions.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

March 4, 1994

Mr. Mark S. Alper  
Associate Editor  
Housing Management Quarterly  
Suite 700  
1275 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-4052

Dear Mark:

Thank you for your letter regarding housing and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. I appreciate your concerns, and I have shared your letter with my staff for further review.

At every opportunity, I have stressed the need for partnerships between the public and private sectors in fully implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act and related laws to help ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the social, cultural, and economic mainstream. I have enclosed a copy of the proclamation I issued on this topic and draw your attention to its emphasis on inclusion, independence, and empowerment. These themes are at the core of our disability policies.

As we strive to provide personal and economic security for all our citizens, I appreciate your participation in the process. Working together, I am certain we can meet this important challenge.

Sincerely,

**BILL CLINTON**

BC/DNP/AH/ps (Corres. #1277392)  
(2.alper.ms)

~~cc: Stan Herr, Domestic Policy, w/incoming  
cc: Deborah Pearlstein, 94 OEOB~~



DEC 5 1993

December 13, 1993

The Honorable Thomas F. McLarty, II  
Chief of Staff to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

The recent media coverage on the issue of entitlements has caused me to record some of my own thinking on this subject, and I would appreciate your bringing the enclosed letter to the President to his attention.

Please accept my best wishes to you and yours for a very Merry Christmas and joyous New Year.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Alper  
Director of Fair Housing Programs and  
Associate Editor, **Housing Management Quarterly**

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE (S) ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER  
NOV 18 1993



December 14, 1993

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some personal observations on the matter of entitlement programs which you might find either interesting or useful.

As an individual with a physical disability, and as a housing professional specializing in the area of public and privately-owned assisted housing, I have grappled long and hard with the issue of entitlements and its accompanying problems. I applaud any and all efforts by your administration to begin to focus on this important matter.

The National Center for Housing Management (NCHM), the non-profit organization by which I am employed, has been saying for some time that entitlement programs have created a dependency of poverty. We see this most clearly in the government housing arena, where housing which was originally intended to be "transitional housing" and "housing of last resort" has become multi-generational housing occupied primarily by single-parent families whose only experience has been tied to the welfare system.

I can recount for you numerous occasions when I've met with residents who have become employed after years of receiving welfare. As the rules of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) tie rent to income, these residents saw their rent jump from \$25.00 per month to \$400.00 per month. Even though I tried to explain that they would enjoy significantly more discretionary income even with the rent increase, almost invariably they would give up the job within two weeks and return to the welfare rolls.

With respect to individuals with disabilities, you are no doubt aware that historically most individuals within this class benefited from entitlements such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI). Because I have a minor mobility impairment, I have never been forced to rely upon these programs. I did, however, benefit from a rehabilitation program which allowed me to gain a college education and utilize my intellect to become employable. Many individuals with disabilities would like to work, but because of barriers which are both architectural and attitudinal in nature, have been unable to secure that dream.

Page Two (2)  
President Clinton  
December 14, 1993

Several years ago, NCHM worked with a community-based organization in the South Bronx, New York which successfully tied housing opportunities to job skills training. This was based on our recognition that many, if not most, individuals who are homeless or otherwise in desperate need of affordable housing have had precious little experience with job environments, performance standards or work ethics.

For individuals with disabilities, the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was a tremendous step; yet, a recent study by the General Accounting Office (GAO) found that "...many managers and owners of establishments covered by the law and in our sample reported they were not generally aware of the law or their responsibilities under it..." ("Americans with Disabilities Act: Initial Accessibility Good But Important Barriers Remain," General Accounting Office, Report No. GAO/PEMD 93-16, page 1.). Moreover, an equally employment law is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act which covers all federally-assisted programs and activities. Government-wide enforcement of Section 504 rests with the Department of Justice (DOJ). Recently, a representative of the Public Affairs Division of the DOJ told me that the Department "...isn't doing anything..." relative to the enforcement of Section 504 and could not provide me with the name of the individual responsible for 504 compliance at DOJ. Under the law, each executive department was required to promulgate its own rules and designate an individual responsible for 504 compliance.

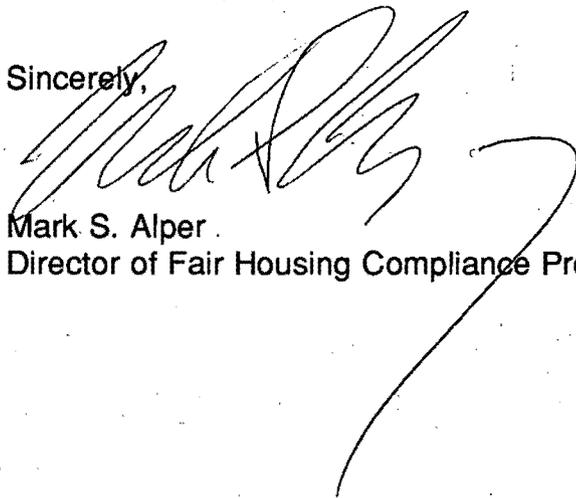
If our nation is to avoid the pitfalls of continuing dependency on entitlement programs, then I believe we must invest in a job skills training program which involves the private sector. Government jobs are fine, but I think you might agree that government workers can become dependent themselves on jobs in the federal system. I worked for the federal government briefly, and can assure anyone that standards of conduct, performance, and work ethics are significantly different in the private sector.

I suppose I could have slipped into entitlement programs. What saved me is that the work I secured made me feel challenged, valuable, and gave me a sense of worth. These elements are vitally necessary to the success of a jobs program. You have to give the so-called "have nots" what it is that the "haves" have. If there are two people who can spur the private sector to action it is yourself and the Vice President. Not because the private sector will gain some minor benefit, but because in the long term it is good for business and good for our nation as a whole.

Page Three (3)  
President Clinton  
December 14, 1993

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share these thoughts with you. Please accept my warmest best wishes to you and your fine family for a joyous Holiday season and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark S. Alper', with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Mark S. Alper  
Director of Fair Housing Compliance Programs

March 7, 1994

Mr. and Mrs. David Connor

P6/(b)(6)

Dear Donna and David:

I recently learned of David's accident, and I wanted to express my deep admiration to both of you for your tremendous strength and courage. Though you are just beginning the process of rehabilitation, your energy and determination can be a wonderful example for others.

As you enjoy the warmth of your growing family, please know that Hillary and I will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Best wishes to you and your family for every future happiness.

Sincerely,

**BILL CLINTON**

BC/DNP/MM/ps (Corres. #1317283)  
(3.connor.d)

cc: Stan Herr, Domestic Policy

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1994

The Washington Post

703-820-2530  
3491  
NOV 10 1993  
322106

S. Stafford  
ST  
NOV 10 1993  
322106

# MIE

STEVE TWOMEY

## A Life Changes, but Not an Attitude

**O**n the evening of Nov. 18, David Connor was pedaling home. Awaiting him was the deliciously average life he shared with Donna, his wife, whom he has known half his 31 years, ever since they were sweethearts at Shawnee Mission South High School in wonderfully average Kansas.

Just the night before, they had talked about their fine fate. While they weren't rich or trouble-free, these were their best times. God seemed to be dealing them a decent hand.

"Wow," Donna recalls saying, "this is great." They had two healthy little pistols, Brendon and Madeline, and a town house in Arlington that had David's handyman touches all over it. They had no debt, save for the big American one, the mortgage.

They had seen much of the planet together, and David saw still more of it for System Planning Corp., for which he was a senior engineer. When he wasn't away, he often would get home at 5 and head off to the playground with the kids.

"He's such a good dad," says Donna, who's 30. On the 18th, David was biking the eight miles from work in North Arlington because that's David. He pushes body and brain. He's a triathlete, he's got a pilot's license, he's got a mind like a sponge. "He's the kind of guy," Donna says, "who, if you ask him about the gross national product of Zimbabwe, he'll tell you."

He was on a bike trail he had ridden "hundreds"

See TWOMEY, B3, Col. 1

# Family Learns How to Grow From Tragedy

TWOMEY, From B1

of times and was about to pedal beneath Interstate 66 when, somehow, he and the 12-speed parted. Maybe the culprit was a rock. Maybe mud. He's not sure. And maybe if he had had his mountain bike, with its bigger tires, he wouldn't have fallen at all. It hardly matters now.

David landed on his helmeted head, traumatizing his spinal cord. He knew immediately he was paralyzed.

"My first thought was, 'What have I done to my wife?'"

The second: Would he ever be able to hug Brendon and Madeline again?

He lay there, immobile, alone. He was in no pain. There was not even a mark on him. But as his breathing grew shallow, "I started saying my prayers," he says. "I thought I was checking out."

But God was simply changing his life, not ending it. He was replacing the comfortable Connor cocoon with an Olympian challenge.

I met David Thursday. His once-lithe body lay on a blue mat atop a table at the National Rehabilitation Hospital. NRH has been his home since he was transferred from Washington Hospital Center, where he was airlifted the evening of Nov. 18 after a jogger found him.

Sitting by his side was Christina Mage, his physical therapist. She tries to get the most out of the parts of his body that work and maintain those that don't. David can move nothing below mid-chest. He cannot walk. He cannot sit up by himself. He can shrug his shoulders, bend his elbows and somewhat move his wrists, but not his fingers.

This is, for now, all the capability he's likely to have, Dr. John Toerge says, "but he'll be monitored in the medical system, looking for any changes, so we can capitalize on them." The sagas of football player Dennis Byrd and baseball umpire Steve Palermo have given us the false sense that recovery in a case like this is a matter of will, when it is not. It depends on the injury, and David's was bad.

But, he says, "I believe in miracles, I do."

Thursday, he was wearing a metal device around his skull called a "halo" designed to block neck movement temporarily, so shattered bones can heal and do no more damage to his nervous system. Because he was on his back, his pale blue eyes could look only skyward as Christina helped him rotate his arms.

The patient calls his injury the "robber." It's stolen his independence. Gazing at him, you cannot help but think: Neither education nor money nor love nor planning nor a golden upbringing can ensure this won't happen to you. And could you cope?

The Connors have moments of tears. David feels guilty sometimes, which Donna tells him is stupid. But he is one cool, driven customer behind that delicate face and soft, friendly voice. "He's taking the things that have been dealt to him," Toerge says. "He's working to the future."

"I'm really proud of my husband," Donna says by phone. "I'm really proud of him. . . . I don't think many people could deal with it as well as Dave is."

He wants to return to work, even though

disability coverage ensures him 70 percent of his salary. More than that, he wants to make life as normal again as possible.

Everything about it is changing. They've had to sell the town house and rent a rancher, so David can get around when he comes home. He has to learn his body's needs intimately, so he can direct his care. Donna, who used to be a personnel company manager, has to learn how to help. And while Madeline, who's 22 months, is unfazed by the injury, Brendon, who's 3, has had tough times.

The Connors had good insurance, but it still won't cover the \$15,000 motorized wheelchair he'll need, or much of his outpatient therapy after he gets home.

But a fund-raiser is planned, and many friends have come forward to help.

Three months ago, David was a specimen of health and they were on blissful cruise control. Donna tries not to remember. "Because you can make me cry in an instant," she says.

They focus instead on goals. Friday, David reached one: His "halo" was removed. He's got another: He wants to be there when Joe is delivered.

The newest Connor is due today, Valentine's Day.

Yes, throughout David's troubles, Donna has been coping with being very pregnant. That's what David meant when he said to himself, "What have I done to my wife?" She must soon care for three toddlers and a husband.

"The timing of all of this just seems unbelievable," Donna says. "I'm not sure I'm prepared to handle this, but I think I can do it."

She will. They will. David's proud of her, as she is proud of him. They are rising, as he says, to the occasion.

They have faith and each other's strength as they stand at the door of a very different life.



BY TOM ALLEN—THE WASHINGTON POST

The Connor family—from left, Donna; 3-year-old Brendon, David and 22-month-old Madeline.

456-2806

To: Debra Pendlton  
From: Stan Ben 62372

Dear David and Donna:

Admiration  
Best wishes

I write to express my admiration  
for <sup>you</sup> your courage and  
spirit in facing disability  
the challenges of a  
and a growing family

~~Your pride in each other~~

I wish you and your  
children every ~~good~~  
as David goes  
strength through  
the process of  
~~your~~ rehabilitation

Debra: Their address is  
on the article.

3444 S. Stafford Street  
Burlington, VA 22206

Anything you  
could add  
on the morale  
level to finish  
such a note  
would be great  
Thanks  
Stan

She's due to have  
a baby any day.  
I spoke to her, and  
she's really wonderful (I didn't  
explain where I was  
calling from exactly) She's  
still trying to figure where  
to go to find the help she  
needs, I gave her some leads, but