



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Accident Changed his Life Forever**

**SOUTHFIELD, MI. – July 24, 2007** – Ten years ago, Dan Perry was on top of the world. He was active, athletic and ready for anything. Dan played on his high school basketball team and was a hit with the ladies. But one night at a friend’s house, he made some bad choices, booze, drugs and a car. Dan’s car hit a telephone pole and he almost died. He was hospitalized for 11 months. The accident left him paralyzed from the neck down and unable to speak.

“I don’t want other young people to make the same mistake that I made,” said Daniel Perry, who talks using an assistive vocal device, called a DynaWrite. “My life has drastically changed and that’s why I want to spread my ‘Anti-Drinking and Driving’ message to young people. They need to know that it is not cool to drink and drive.”

Dan, who is 27 years old and is now a motivational speaker, has spoken at several Detroit-area schools over the past year. His message is about Disability Awareness and the dangers of drinking and driving.



Dan speaks on topics related to Disability Awareness, Self-Determination/Empowerment, and Anti Drinking & Driving. His main goal is to promote his business and let others know that he is available to speak with any group dealing with individuals who may be at risk for making the same mistakes he did.

After the accident, Dan attended Visions Unlimited in Farmington which brings together hands-on learning and community-based work opportunities for young adults with physical and developmental disabilities. At the school, students learn to make successful transitions from school to community-based work opportunities. Dan was able to learn how to use assistive technology and how to get stronger, both mentally and physically.

“It was a challenge, but with the help of God, my mom and some great teachers, I pulled through. Now I enjoy talking to kids and adults about my life story. I hope my story will make a difference in the lives of others.”

Dan lives in Southfield and utilizes the services and supports of Community Living Services. Community Living Services (CLS) is a non-profit organization that promotes full community inclusion, citizenship and a self-determined life for people with developmental disabilities. CLS believes the greatest opportunity to increase the production of income for people with severe disabilities lies within the development of small businesses or microenterprises.

CLS is committed to introducing, encouraging, and supporting innovative approaches to income generation for people with disabilities. CLS is dedicated to creative thinking and helping people plan a future that is based on their strengths, interests, and dreams for the future, regardless of the extent of their disability. Community Living Services is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. For more information, visit [www.comliveserv.com](http://www.comliveserv.com).

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