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GRIT Pay it Forward Low Income Fund Grantee Receives GRIT Freedom Chair

Nico Serra receives GRIT Freedom Chair right before Christmas

Portland, OR - Six years ago, Portland resident Nico Serra was struck by a car and dragged while riding his bicycle. With a combination of inadequate medical care and a genetic disease called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which affects tissues and joints, his body hasn't been able to fully recover.

It's been a long struggle. Serra, now 35, has undergone three shoulder surgeries and a hip surgery. He uses a permanent splint on his hand and wrist and suffers from constant pain in his neck and back. In addition, due to his Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, the arches are falling in his feet making it difficult, sometimes impossible, to walk.

Previously, Serra primarily used a power chair to get around. Before his accident, the self-proclaimed "outdoor junkie" would hike up to 15 miles per day as a wilderness guide for students who suffer from addictions. Together, they would rock climb, mountain bike or go white water rafting as part of their therapy. In more recent years, Serra has been confined to his home, unable to enjoy the freedom of being outside.

Through [GRIT's Pay it Forward Low Income Fund](#), Serra applied for a grant to receive a GRIT Freedom Chair, the mountain bike of wheelchairs. Thanks to GRIT's customers and donors, Serra received his GRIT Freedom Chair right before Christmas.

"We're proud to offer the most affordable off-road wheelchair in the country," says GRIT CEO Tish Scolnik. "We started the Pay it Forward Fund to make sure those individuals who are struggling financially don't miss out on the mobility that could change their lives."

Serra is an advocate in the Portland community who raises awareness for those with disabilities to create more accessible buildings. "The GRIT Freedom Chair will allow me to go to the park down the street, a place that was previously not accessible to me," says Serra. "The chair really embodies the idea that everyone should have access to the outdoors."

Click here to donate to the [Pay it Forward Low Income Fund](#), so more riders like Serra can move beyond the pavement.

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