

Narrative Statement – NeuroHope of Indiana, Chris Leeuw, Executive Director

NeuroHope of Indiana is a 501 c 3 non-profit physical therapy clinic specialized for people recovering from paralysis due to neurologic injury (spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke) who are uninsured, or after insurance has exhausted therapy visits. NeuroHope uniquely provides very affordable, long-term access to therapy and exercise for patients after hospital discharge. Neurologic injuries take months and sometimes years of specialized rehabilitation for patients to maximize recovery. Unfortunately, most are discharged from the hospital in a matter of weeks. Then, they are typically granted just 30 or fewer outpatient therapy visits to continue their recovery. Due to rising health care costs, insurance companies do not provide patients with adequate coverage to maximize recovery. Likewise, healthcare providers are unwilling to offer affordable out-of-pocket rates for therapy after insurance coverage expires. The result is that injured people are forced to leave therapy programs long before they can maximize their recovery, and they do not have access to evidence-based therapy activities that promote neurologic recovery. NeuroHope addresses this void by uniquely operating outside the boundaries of insurance reimbursement to provide an affordable continuum of care for patients.

Traditional hospital systems and outpatient clinics charge \$300-\$400 per 1-hour therapy visit. NeuroHope currently charges just \$50 per visit. This means the clinic is reliant on a blend of donations, grants, community partnerships, and government funds to offset the difference in cost needed to keep services strong. NeuroHope also provides financial assistance to low-income patients through its "Special Assistance Fund". Approximately 20% of NeuroHope's patients are Medicaid eligible and qualify for special assistance.

Foundations that contribute to NeuroHope can elect to support the "Special Assistance Fund", which directly funds a specific patient's care (\$50 per 1-hour visit), or NeuroHope's "General Operating Fund", which helps cover the overall deficit NeuroHope incurs by providing affordable care.