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## Northeast Passage Receives Christopher Reeve Foundation Grant

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Northeast Passage

July 27, 2006

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Northeast Passage, a self-funded program of the University of New Hampshire, has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Christopher Reeve Foundation (CRF) to support its Adaptive Paddling Program.

Northeast Passage is a nationally recognized leader in community-based therapeutic recreation services. It is dedicated to creating an environment where individuals with disabilities have the same freedom of recreational choice as their peers. Research has shown that kayaking is one of the fastest growing sports in the Northeast region for the non-disabled. To match this trend, Northeast Passage is expanding its Adaptive Paddling Program to include instructor training and by providing high quality accessible kayaking opportunities in New England.

The CRF grant money will help purchase adaptive paddling equipment (kayaks and paddles) that maximizes the abilities of each individual with their unique disability. Further, Northeast Passage will continue to work to develop a network of accessible paddling locations, serve as a resource and offer group outings and instruction.

"The Christopher Reeve Foundation and Northeast Passage's ideas line up philosophically," said Jill Gravink, Northeast Passage executive director. "We truly appreciate their support in making these services available."

Since 1999, the Christopher Reeve Foundation has provided more than 1,000 Quality of Life grants to organizations dedicated to improving opportunities for people living with disabilities, particularly spinal cord injuries. The grant recognizes the needs of individuals with disabilities to participate in all areas of life. Northeast Passage's grant was awarded in the Sports and Recreation category.