

SPRINGBOARD LANDINGS MESSENGER

BOARD NOTES

John Cooper
Vice President, Board of Directors

How do you like the new look? We're growing, thanks to you, and felt it was time to give the Messenger a facelift. We hope you love it as much as we do. So much to celebrate and we are grateful. In the past three months, SL has had the furthest reach and most exposure to date!

Take a look at our milestones:

- We launched the official SL YouTube channel. Check it out by going to our website and clicking on the YouTube icon. Help us get a custom URL – we need 100 subscribers. It's free – subscribe today!
- It was a record breaking year for SL at The Big Payback on May 2nd! Your votes won SL an interview with NewsChannel 5 and we also made an appearance on Nashville Access!! Your generous donations and prizes totaled close to \$40,000 in a 24-hour period. Wow!
- We have a buyer! The anonymously donated 60 acre parcel of land in Murfreesboro is now under contract and slated to close early next year. Fingers crossed!

What's next?

We're launching an Events Committee Board and looking for energetic, creative, influential volunteers who are passionate about our mission. Interested? We want to hear from you, email info@springboardlandings.org.



CALENDAR LANDINGS: JOIN US

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October: *Whiskey trippers*

How exciting – our very own John Cooper is spending his off hours on guitar with The Whiskey Trippers. They will be rocking their Y'allternative genre Friday, **October 4** with proceeds benefitting Springboard Landings. Grab your family, friends and co-workers and head to Douglas Corner for a night you don't want to miss!

Whiskey Trippers

Friday, October 4th | Doors open @ 5pm | Music starts @ 6pm
Douglas Corner | 2106 8th Ave South | Nashville, TN 37204

13-31

October: Under One Roof | Sukkot at the JCC

Sukkah Collaborative Art Experiment: "Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World"

Springboard Landings will be participating in the collaborative art experiment, Under One Roof. Alyssa Fosnight is donating her artistic talents to create a 36" x 60" panel on SL's interpretation of "Repairing the World". Stop by to check it out!

<https://www.nashvillejcc.org/jewish-life/under-one-roof/>

"Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World"

Exhibition Dates | October 13 to October 31, 2019

Artist Reception | October 20, 2019 | 5:30pm

Gordon JCC of Nashville | 801 Percy Warner Boulevard | Nashville, TN 37205

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December: #GIVINGTUESDAY

Keep us in mind this holiday season and give the gift of community by donating to Springboard Landings on Tuesday, **December 2**. #givingtuesday is an international day of charitable giving held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. We'll be kicking off our #givingtuesday campaign in October which happens to be the 70th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness month. Follow us with weekly inspiring video vignettes highlighting our fabulous Landers.

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SPRINGBOARD SPOTLIGHT



The Big Payback, Pictures 3 & 5: Together, we proved that when it comes to connecting generosity with need, our donors charitable spirit is unmatched. Within 24 hours, combined with prize money and matching contributions we raised close to \$40,000 during The Big Payback online giving challenge! This put SL in 2nd place in the Small Organization category, and 20th overall with 964 participating nonprofits. If you need another copy of your tax receipt, please email thebigpayback@cfmt.org.

Nashville Public Television, Pictures 1, 2 & 6: Springboard Landings hits the airwaves! Thank you to all our Springboard Landings supporters who worked the Nashville Public Television phone lines June 5. We had a blast networking with the NPT staff and our very own John Cooper made a splash as well. Check out his interview on our YouTube and Facebook page. Thank you NPT – we can't wait to do it again in 2020.

Merritt Homes Recipient, Picture 4: Did you know when a 501(c)3 nonprofit goes out of business or dissolves, they have to distribute their final proceeds to another approved nonprofit or forfeit it to the government? We are honored to be the recipient of the Merritt Homes Organization. Here, Connie Aull, Founder/Director of Merritt Homes presents Charlie Cooper, co-founder of Springboard Landings a check in the final dissolution process. This will only propel our mission further. Thank you Connie and thank you Merritt Homes for the help you gave to so many!

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Type in <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ-VSEnyIFcxpzob0q7BDig> or click the YouTube icon on our website!

Once we hit 100 subscribers the above link will look more like this:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/springboardlandings>

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COMMUNITY CORNER

MEETING A HANDICAPPED CHALLENGE

By John A. Gupion IV

Up, up and away. Truth: sometimes you can overcome a limitation such as a handicap to soar past it like Christopher Reeve, Superman, and a handicapped person. In the process, we learn from a challenge. In effect, he has taught us in a positive way about the capabilities of handicapped people and the often triumphant nature of their lives.

A bad dose of life or some challenges are always the start for a handicapped person like me. For example, walking suffers somewhat as a result of my handicap. Recently, I took a spill and plummeted to the pavement. I didn't hesitate and with some aid got right back up. I believe this incident could inspire a good motto of life for me: when life knocks you down, show what you're made of and stand tall again. A second point of weakness for me remains my strength. At least I am strong in spirit but not always in body. Hopefully, I can walk in Bowlingate with Mrs. Haury and swim at the Y.M.C.A soon, no doubt, I'll be a gladiator.

The most noticeable handicapped drawback for me is my memory. Indeed, while I may have things in common with an octogenarian, I don't hang with the "Cocoon" or "Driving Miss Daisy" crowd. To me, memory is still a mystery. It comes and goes.

The results of handicap on my life have been a series of take-aways, the most devastating being my college degree – close but no cigar. At least, I'm still an intelligent young man (can't take that away). Of course, in a supremely ironic way, the friendship of my college buddies, the Wahoo girls, has provided its own diploma sorts – a 4.0. Another handicapped result has been the reshaping of my life's plan (no newspaper work for this aspiring journalist in Atlanta or someplace but Nashville is a big town and abundant options await).

Of course, considering handicaps, as always in life good comes from bad. For example, support from friends, family and the Boss (his name is God) has been phenomenal---a ray of light in the dark night. It's wonderful feeling God's mercy also. Despite limitations, I've experienced what seems to me almost boundless achievement. "I'm realistic, but sometimes the people that tell me I can't do something now better beware."

Indeed, it almost seems that it's been my goal to surprise or defy people. Instead of a nursing home life, I have a department store job at Dillard's. Take that! Ultimate blessing and achievement remains the fact that I have encountered my very best friends in my social group for disabled people – Springboard. Without a doubt, they are not just hang-out friends but true friends, Undoubted they make my life brighter. A further supreme aspect of my life as a handicapped person has been tackling the piano again and returning to my musical roots, taking piano classes again. Call me Liberace if you must, but his attire leaves me cold. My piano teacher tells me she is proud of me and that I'm doing a fantastic job. Soon, I will play with a candelabra atop the piano in many moving concerts. I will be in demand. Buy your tickets now.

Through my handicap, life's lesson to me is that change can be beneficial and promote good things. Sometimes you must simply find new ways of doing the same thing and a different perspective on the world altogether. And remember in the end that God tests us for different reasons and I think I aced this handicapped exam.

From my experiences, I pray I am now wiser, more appreciative and loving person. Thank God, with my family and friends we've got a good supportive team. Call us the "Titans".



A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDERS



Pat & Charlie Cooper

Grateful is the word we find ourselves using more and more. We are grateful for the loyal supporters over the years who have brought us to the horizon of the fruition of the Springboard Landings' mission. We are grateful for the amazing support recently given during the Big Payback Campaign. We are grateful that our future Landers with developmental disabilities will be living in a safe, secure environment which will allow independence, community, and a meaningful and fulfilling life. SL's existence relies on the continual support of the community, and we are grateful for you!



179 Belle Forest Circle
Suite 301
Nashville, TN 37221

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RECENTLY MOVED?

If so, please contact us at
615-719-9060 or email us at
info@springboardlandings.org
so we can update your
information and keep you
informed!



**Providing adults who need a limited amount of support an option for independent living
in a secure, community-centered environment.**

Springboard Landings is a member of the Center for Nonprofit Management and The Community
Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

SpringboardLandings.org

(615) 719-9060

info@springboardlandings.org

Springboard Landings is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

