



## About Danny Heumann – Longer Version

Just two weeks before Danny Heumann was to start college at Syracuse University in 1985, a devastating car accident left him paralyzed from the chest down. Anger? Yes. Depression? Absolutely. But slowly, Danny dug down and discovered the gritty willpower not just to cope, but to thrive.

He entered Syracuse a year later and graduated in 1991 from the famed Newhouse School of Communications. Danny went on to receive his JD from the Washington College of Law at American University in 1998.

In 2003, along with his wife, Lynn, Danny created Heumannly Capable, a motivational speaking company. Danny has spoken before a wide range of audiences, from senior level executives to sales and service groups, students, sports teams and medical professionals. With his special brand of optimism, Danny inspires audiences with his messages on finding joy in the face of adversity, managing change, effective leadership, building positive provider/patient relationships and a variety of other topics. By sharing his life-changing experiences, Danny reminds his audiences that their own emotional paralysis can prevent them from living life to the max. Through his powerful message, peppered with personal stories and humor, he helps attendees discover their own inner strength so they can break free of limitations and realize their greater potential.

A member of the Board of Directors of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, Danny is a passionate advocate, in both the public and private sectors, for the 50 million Americans who suffer from neurological disorders. In 2005, Danny created a grassroots coalition called Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research and Cures. The coalition includes all the major research universities in the state, the Governor, state and federal legislators and countless disease advocacy groups. The Coalition educates citizens and the state legislature on the importance of overturning Michigan laws concerning the use of embryonic stem cells solely for research so that one day countless diseases and disabilities can be cured through cellular therapies.

Over the past twenty-three years, Danny has raised over \$5 million for research to cure spinal cord injury, previously through a separate organization named the Daniel Heumann Fund for Spinal Cord Research and more recently through the [Daniel Heumann Young Scientists Fund](#) of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. This initiative, within the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Individual Research Grants Program, helps ensure that the next generation of spinal cord researchers is being trained in the best environment by the best people and raises critically needed support and awareness to attract the best and brightest young scientists to the field of spinal cord injury research.

Danny has spoken at two United Nations Stem Cell Research Conferences, been interviewed on CNN, NPR and by a host of other news media including the New York Times, Boston Herald, Chicago Tribune, Syracuse Post Standard, Detroit News and others.

A native of Riverdale, NY, Danny is a wheelchair tennis player and competes in USTA tournaments throughout the country. He is also a long-distance hand-cycle rider, water skier, snow skier and sailor. He most enjoys and appreciates his role as husband and father - his daughter, Katie, is 7. He and his family reside in Ann Arbor, MI.

Learn more about Danny at [HeumannlyCapable.com](http://HeumannlyCapable.com).