



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CLAGETT ORGANIZATION RECEIVES \$7,128 GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION FOR PARALYMPIC SAILING CLINIC AND REGATTA**

**NEWPORT, RI – (August 4, 2011)** – The Newport-based non-profit organization C. Thomas Clagett, Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta is proud to announce that it has received a \$7,128 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

The award was one of 77 grants totaling more than \$508,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations nationwide that aid in providing more opportunities, access and daily quality of life for individuals living with paralysis, their families and caregivers. Since the program was developed in 1999 by the late Dana Reeve, over 1,900 grants have been awarded totaling nearly \$14.8 million.

The Clagett organization will use the grant to purchase aquatic lift equipment for the use on docks to assist Paralympic class sailors in and out of boats.

“We are very grateful for the Reeve Foundation grant which helps our organization provide training for sailors with disabilities who have set personal goals to reach competitive, intermediate and elite competition status,” said Judy McLennan (Portsmouth, R.I.), president of the C. Thomas Clagett, Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta organization.

“The grant is a tremendous gift that we appreciate deeply. The support from the Reeve Foundation, and the association with Christopher Reeve’s life and legacy, provides an inspiration to each one of our sailors that is immeasurable. It is our hope that all the sailors who attend will have their quality of life improved by sailing at the Clagett Clinic and Regatta.”

This is the second grant to the Clagett organization from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. An earlier grant, through Sail Newport in 2007, awarded \$5,000 to the Clagett Regatta which was a tune-up event for the 2008 U.S. Paralympic Trials - Sailing.

“We are honored to carry on Dana Reeve’s legacy through the Quality of Life Grants Program,” said Peter T. Wilderotter, president and CEO of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. “We believe those affected by paralysis deserve the best resources, support and community. We are proud to award these organizations who provide opportunities to those individuals living with paralysis, their families and friends, and caregivers, to enhance their well-being.”

The Reeve Foundation’s Quality of Life grants are divided into three categories, Actively Achieving, Bridging Barriers and Caring and Coping. Some Quality of Life grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Award #1U59DD000338). These grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases and birth conditions.

**About the Reeve Foundation**

*The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, and to review the entire list of Quality of Life grant recipients, please visit our website at [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) or call 800-225-0292.*

**About the Clagett Organization**

*The C. Thomas Clagett, Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta was established in 2003 to help train sailors with disabilities who hope to represent the U.S.A. at the international level of sailing including the Paralympics. Any interested sailor with disabilities, including foreign sailors, are welcome to participate in the four-day training and racing program led by sailing coaches internationally recognized for their expertise and sailing achievements. The hallmark of The Clagett is the clinic on day one that covers subjects from strategy to rules and is led by experts on those topics combined with on-the-water coaching to work on technique. Three days of racing follows which gives the sailors an opportunity to advance in a competitive event. In addition, sailors with vision impairments were welcomed to "The Clagett" in 2008 to compete for the Sail Newport Blind National Sailing Championship in a two-day series which runs concurrent with the annual Clagett Clinic and Regatta. For more information on the Clagett Clinic and Regatta, visit the website at: [www.clagettregatta.org](http://www.clagettregatta.org) or call 401.846.1353. For more information on the Sail Newport Blind National Sailing Championships visit the website at: [www.sailnewport.org](http://www.sailnewport.org) or call 401.846.1983.*

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***Photos available upon request.***

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