

## Information Regarding Potential Rotary Programs

To: Devlin, Barb [bdevlinmn@aol.com]

From: Duke Pieper [mpieper@bgsu.edu]

My name is Duke Pieper and I would love to speak with your Rotary Club. I have given a number of speeches to organizations like yours. I have a non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation and for more information my website is [www.pieperfoundation.org](http://www.pieperfoundation.org) I went to Shattuck St. Mary's in 2005. I am the author of the book "I'm Alive Courage, Hope, and a Miracle." My book was recently published by Triumph Books out of Chicago. I was a hockey player myself and I played at Shattuck St. Mary's and in 2008 I had a cavernous hemangioma. I came close to death multiple times. During the first surgery I actually had a 5% chance to live and on another occasion I was only hours away from dying. I also had multiple brain infections and the last one landed on my spinal cord paralyzing me from head to toe. From this point on I had to re-learn everything from walking to talking, eating to breathing. I believe the true reason I made it though those nine months in the hospital was to help other people! I truly believe that with the things that I had to experience and had overcome in my recovery it all was to share my story and help other people. So, in my book along with telling my story on how I got through everything I put 15 bullet points in the back pertaining to how I overcame those challenges and adversaries in my recovery. I made it real general though, so anyone can relate to it no matter what the situation is or no matter what you're trying to overcome. I have also started a foundation, "The Pieper Hope and Courage Foundation." All the proceeds from the book go to the foundation and the foundation is looking to buy books for people who cannot afford them or who are not in a position to buy one. My goal is then to go in to hospitals and hand my book out and talk with them about whatever it is that they are trying to overcome. I have also given speeches to many different organizations to reach out to and help individuals that may be struggling with life's adversities.