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Mayor

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**Bryan Stow Ready For Rehab
Brain-Injured Patient Shows Tremendous Improvement and is Released from
San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center**

SAN FRANCISCO – San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH) today announced the release of patient Bryan Stow, who was transferred this morning to a rehabilitation facility where he can continue his recovery from a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

“Bryan has been an extremely challenging patient,” said Dr. Geoff Manley, SFGH Chief of Neurosurgery, who led Mr. Stow’s care team. “It has been a roller coaster, but he is young and strong and has made tremendous advances. To get this far, it was vital that he be at a place that specializes in acute care for brain-injured patients. Now it is equally important that he receive care from a place that specializes in rehabilitation for patients with brain injuries.”

The Stow family has requested that the name of the rehabilitation facility not be released today, to allow time for them and Bryan to settle in and begin working with the new care team.

“We feel immense relief today, knowing that Bryan is ready to start the next chapter of his story,” the family said in a statement. “Though we won’t miss the hospital, we will miss the people at San Francisco General. Everyone there has been so wonderful and kind to us, and we know that Dr. Manley and the team have given Bryan the best care possible.”

Mr. Stow arrived at SFGH from LAC+USC Medical Center on Monday May 16, after being severely injured in an assault on March 31 in Los Angeles, where he suffered traumatic brain injury. He underwent a decompressive craniectomy in Los Angeles, a life-saving surgical procedure to remove a piece of the skull to relieve pressure caused by brain swelling resulting from the beating. That procedure allowed him to live, but the extent of his recovery remained unknown. Dr. Manley replaced the missing skull fragment on August 10 with a custom prosthetic bone flap. Shortly afterward, a shunt was placed to drain fluid from Mr. Stow’s brain to protect him from further harm.

Mr. Stow has come a long way since May. Initially comatose, on a series of anti-seizure medications and struggling with several medical complications, Mr. Stow now can follow

commands, speak a few words, interact with his family and caregivers, breathe on his own, and he is starting to eat.

SFGH specializes in care for brain and spinal cord injured patients. Earlier this month it became the first hospital in the country to be certified for a Traumatic Brain Injury Program by the Joint Commission.

“We know more about him than many other places would,” Dr. Manley said, “because we have the research, technology and the experience of treating thousands of brain injured patients. For these patients, recovery is not a straight line. There are neurological issues as well as complex medical issues that need to be monitored closely and managed aggressively by a dedicated expert team. We still don’t know where Bryan’s long road will take him, and it will take years to find out. But today we do know that he is getting better and is ready for the next phase of treatment.”



Bryan Stow with his family on right (parents Dave and Ann Stow and sister Bonnie Stow,) and Dr. Geoff Manley on left leaving SFGH by ambulance on the morning of Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH)

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center is the sole provider of trauma services for the City and County of San Francisco. A comprehensive medical center, SFGH serves some 100,000 patients per year and provides 20 percent of the city’s inpatient care. In 2011, SFGH became the first hospital in the country to be certified for a Traumatic Brain Injury program. As San Francisco’s public hospital, SFGH’s mission is to provide quality health care and trauma services with compassion and respect to patients that include the city’s most vulnerable. General Hospital is also one of the nation’s top tertiary academic medical centers, partnering with the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine on clinical training and research.

SFGH specializes in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI), for which it is internationally recognized. Each year, SFGH neurotrauma specialists see more than 1,200 patients with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries and perform nearly 300 neurosurgical operations. With an average daily census of 30 patients, the neurosurgical service at SFGH also actively manages the critical care of these patients and provides advanced neurotrauma care, including brain tissue oxygen monitoring, cerebral blood flow monitoring, jugular venous saturation monitoring and continuous EEG.

Additional Resources:

- **SFGH Media Hotline: (415) 206-3376**
- Cards and letters for Bryan Stow and family: P.O. Box 884, Capitola, CA 95010
- Website for family updates and donations: <http://www.support4bryanstow.com>
- More information about Traumatic Brain Injury work at SFGH:
<http://www.brainandspinalinjury.org/index.php>