

PRESS RELEASE



Date: Jan 7, 2007

Re: An adult with Cerebral Palsy finds greater success in therapy through the use of new invention:

“It helped change my life,” said Steve...

When Jen Pugliese bought the new Vortex PRO-TRAINER for her therapy center she knew exactly what to do to help Steve. Steve Slotkin of Newark, Delaware has Cerebral Palsy and had been being treated by Jen for over a year at her therapy center. Steve was showing improvement but was still very dependant on his care giver and sister, Carol Barnett.

"When Steve moved out of his long term care community, and into my home, it was an adjustment. I became responsible for much of the daily care that had previously been performed by nursing assistants. We were hoping for a solution that would help Steve become more independent. Steve began therapy with Jen so that he could build up his strength to help me with things like getting him out of bed, transferring him to his shower chair, and helping him get dressed. Once his Vortex routine started, I saw an improvement in the length of time he could stand, as well as in his overall endurance for activities."

"Steve has cerebral palsy, and therapy has been a big part of his life. When he first came into my office, he was very well versed in the traditional exercises, having participated in strengthening, balance, and endurance programs over the years." Jen explained. "He participated in exercises using therabands, cuff weights, and physioballs, and we used patterns and manual strengthening to help improve his functional strength. When we introduced the Vortex into his program, it opened up a new realm of possibility. Steve found the new exercises a refreshing change from the tried and true exercises that he'd been doing all of his life, and he found that they challenged him in a whole new way. He had to work with resistance through the whole range, from a variety of angles. It was an added benefit to me, as a therapist, because I could increase the weight far past what I could manage manually, and I could challenge him towards further strengthening. I also found it helpful because

when Steve was using the attachments and the cables for resistance, it freed up my hands to be able to provide contact and feedback regarding his other muscles. It was nice for Steve that he could remain in the wheelchair for the entire strengthening session, since the Vortex allows for different angles and different applications. The Vortex is also convenient because all of the custom attachments store right on the unit, and the therapist and the client fit easily within the confines of the unit. We were able to complete his strengthening program in a shorter period of time, because I didn't have to move him between equipment, find different cuff weights, or transfer him to a higher or lower mat table. The Vortex's greatest application for me as a therapist is that I can do traditional strengthening and endurance programs, using straight plane movements, or I can do multiplaner programs, which help improve overall functional strength. It gives the therapist a lot of creativity to develop individualized programs, which really improves client satisfaction and compliance."

"It has helped me, too," said Carol, his care giver. "Not only relieving me of having to help lift him so often but to see the pride and joy grow in Steve due to what he now can accomplish is even more wonderful."

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