



THOMAS E. SMITH FOUNDATION

The Thomas E. Smith Foundation (TESF) is a non-profit organization with a mission to better the lives of people living with paralysis through financial and emotional support, as well as supporting preventive innovations that decrease the risk of spinal cord injuries.

ABOUT US.

TESF is a catalyst for transformative change in the lives of individuals living with paralysis. We challenge the status quo by developing meaningful programs, investing in groundbreaking clinical research, and advocating for equitable access to care.

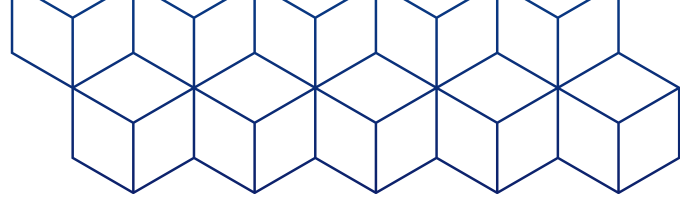
Rooted in decades of innovative leadership and lived experience with paralysis, we are committed to dismantling systemic barriers, empowering individuals, and redefining the possibilities for a life without limitations.

OUR CALL TO ACTION.

Our namesake, Thomas Smith, is the first person in medical history to be paralyzed three separate times.

Witnessing the many significant gaps that can limit an individual's access to evidence-based care, Thomas and his friend Tucker Mullin founded TEF to ensure that anyone who experiences a spinal cord injury or who is living with paralysis has access to the same chance at the one-in-a-million recovery Thomas made.

thomasesmithfoundation.org



DRIVING INNOVATION, EXPANDING ACCESS, REDEFINING POSSIBLE.

Despite growing costs and significant unmet need, the Thomas E. Smith Foundation is one of few organizations focused not only on bridging gaps for people living with SCI, but changing the way that healthcare is delivered so no one is denied access to their greatest potential mobility and highest quality of life.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Every 29 minutes, someone in the United States sustains a spinal cord injury. Nearly 1 in 50 Americans live with paralysis and the average lifetime out of pocket cost for individuals and families is significant, from \$1 million to \$6 million based on severity of injury and age.

SCI is catastrophic, profoundly impacting physical, social, and financial health, and there is little public awareness of the challenges – unless someone you love suffers an injury.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE.



CARE CONTINUUM INNOVATION

We support people living with SCI and paralysis, bridging gaps and eliminating barriers to essential healthcare, equipment, and other out of pocket necessities to thrive.



GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

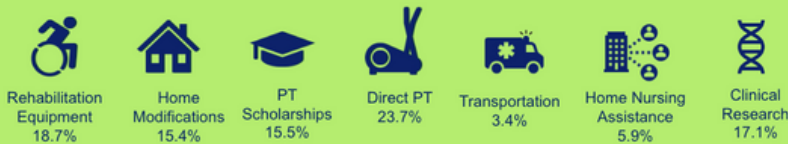
We invest in clinical and academic institutions to conduct groundbreaking research for innovative treatments, and to one day find a cure for paralysis.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We partner with local and state decision makers who share our vision to create a world with greater accessibility and inclusivity for individuals living with SCI and paralysis.

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS.



\$1,700,000+

In total grants made for care continuum innovation and groundbreaking research

