

## **2010 CFC-O Wounded Warrior Story**

### **Corporal Matt Bradford, United States Marine Corps**

(302 words)

#### **Injured Marine Continues to Serve**

Matt Bradford, a 23-year old Marine, was injured in Iraq and lost both of his legs and his vision. When he returned to the United States, he became familiar with a CFC supported charity that has been beneficial in helping him to get his life back in order. The charity has helped in many ways including providing financial assistance for his immediate needs, helping him to participate in hope and morale trips and supporting him to complete several road races on a hand cycle. The group also helped to take care of his mother who had moved to be by his side, during his multiple surgeries.

"These are great people, they keep in touch with me and they are always just a phone call away," says Corporal Bradford.

Despite his injuries, Corporal Bradford's fighting spirit and determination remain strong. In 2009, he competed in and finished the Marine Corps Marathon on a hand cycle. He also made history on April 7, 2010 when he became the first blind, double amputee to reenlist in the Marine Corps; he has enlisted for a three-year tour. The Marine Corp recently recognized Matt with a promotion to Corporal. The ceremony, held at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, also marked the end of Bradford's treatment.

Matt's goals are to stay in the military as long as the Marine Corps needs him and to deploy as often as necessary. Currently Corporal Bradford stands ready to take over a new job with the Wounded Warrior Battalion East, mentoring injured marines. He will be located at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Although he is sorry to leave his friends in San Antonio, he is looking forward to his new job. "I'm excited to get going and get started in my new job helping and mentoring young injured Marines."

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