

Reminder: Spadtastics Play 6-10 PM Friday in Fundraiser for Darien Man with Spinal Injury

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A special benefit concert by the “Spadtastics”, a Darien-based, Grateful Dead cover band takes place from 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, Aug. 26 at Tilley Pond Park. Money raised will go to help a Darien man paralyzed with a spinal cord injury earlier this year.

— *This article, largely rewritten from [an earlier Darienite.com article](#) (an announcement from Brown Family Friends), is a reminder about Friday night's concert.*

The outdoor concert is part of the Darien Summer Nights series but takes place at the park rather than at Grove Street Plaza.

Food vendors including Colony Grill Pizza Truck, The Melt Mobile, Bodega and the Darien Butcher Shop will be on site. Depot volunteers will be at the event doing face painting and Paul Mardoff will be doing balloon art for kids.

The concert is free to the public. Parking is available across from Tilley Pond at the Darien Train Station and Koons Lot. Volunteers will be at the park entrances accepting donations via credit card and cash for B.F.F. all evening.

Here's how the Darien Summer Nights website describes the Spadtastics:

The Spadtastics band formed in 2006. The band consists of many members of past local Darien bands (Milc, Nick the Fin and Magic Garden). The name "Spadtastics" comes from the late Darien resident and former band leader, David Spadacinni who was the inspiration for this new band. The band covers the popular music of the Grateful Dead which songs were a fixture back in our DHS/College days. Due to family schedules and professions, the band only plays a concert once-a-year.

There will also be a silent auction with prizes including: a ski house during Christmas Week, vacation house in Nantucket, Cooking class at the Institute for Culinary Education, New York Giants Tickets and a package of babysitting donated by Darien High School students.

The event is being underwritten by Baywater Properties, The Glassmeyer Family and hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the Darien Lions Club as part of their "Darien Summer Nights Concert Series."

What Happened This Spring

This spring, Gordon and Jennifer Brown were like many parents who had lived in Darien for more than 20 years. They were eagerly planning the next chapter in their lives as their third and youngest child, Ben, a varsity hockey player, was just a few weeks away from graduation at DHS.

Their middle child, Grace, was thriving as a junior at Tulane University, and their eldest son, Alex, had been working in California after graduation from Colgate University.

The Browns were soon to be empty nesters, planning on downsizing to a smaller home, traveling and enjoying their newfound freedom.

Then everything changed in one instant. While on a trip to visit Jennifer's family in Iowa, Gordon, 59, fell from just a few steps and sustained a severe spinal cord injury which left him paralyzed from the chest down.

— *an announcement from Brown Family Friends*

“For a while it was touch and go as to whether Gordon would survive the accident,” said Jennifer Brown, his wife. Gordon spent several weeks in the ICU at the University of Iowa. “Our first concern was keeping him alive. As the reality of all that lies ahead sets in, we are so thankful for the love and support of the Darien Community.”

The Darien Community Organizes to Help

With staggering medical costs and constant care needed, friends of the family have organized The Brown Family Friends or “B.F.F.”

The fund will help with the costs of care and provide financial assistance for the necessary lifestyle changes that will be essential for Gordon and his family in the coming months.

A Facebook page [“B.F.F. Brown Family Friends”](#) has been created [with a link to donate directly](#) to the family’s medical costs.

What the Fundraising is for

The fundraising effort has a goal of gathering \$100,000. This will cover costs including:

- Gordon’s daily medical care and nursing assistance, approximately \$250 per day (not covered by the family’s medical insurance)?
- medical bills?
- a custom van to accommodate the wheelchair which is estimated at \$75,000?
- and elements of their home that will have to be adapted for Gordon including ramps, a hydraulic lift from a special bed to the wheelchair, a special shower, and other wheelchair accessible adaptations which cost \$50,000 to \$100,000.

“This has been such a devastating time for Gordon, his wife Jennifer and their children, our goal is to help them get through this time of great transition if we can help ease some of this financial burden, hopefully, that will allow the family to focus on looking ahead and helping Gordon to live his life,” said Barb Hazelton, family friend and organizer of The Brown Family Friends.

B.F.F. is grateful for the generous donations of resources and time from Baywater Properties, The Glassmeyer Family, Beth Harrington-Howes, JW H Construction, Doug Vanderhorn architects, LEVCO Oil, Wood Builders and Darien Attorney Michael Nedder.

Editor's note: Paragraphs were reorganized by Darienite.com for the announcement as it appears here, and other minor changes were made.