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Nick: I want to introduce on my right, Brian Wade. Are you a member of War Amps ... how do you fit in?

Brian: Yes. I grew up as a child amputee, a Champ. I joined pretty young and I've been participating with the Program for many, many years and then about 10 years ago, I actually became part of the staff and it's my way of giving back to the Association.

Nick: So in other words, they were there for you so you want to be there for them?

Brian: That's correct.

Nick: And over on my left we have an infrequent, but certainly a very special guest here at CFRA, Cliff Chadderton. How are you doing, Cliff?

HCC: Oh very well, thank you.

Nick: You're looking spry as a spring chicken, sir.

HCC: (laughs) Nice to hear.

Nick: (laughs) So you've obviously been busy putting all this whole program together.

HCC: Yes. I've taken about two years to get it really to the point where we could bring in the families, we could give them some of the leading information without sort of overwhelming them with computer stuff. We really want to get them ... weed them off the Nintendo, which is a toy, and get them over to what we call the great teaching tool ... the computer. That has been the thread of how

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we have been introducing this. We just finished our second national seminar and to see what some of these kids can do with computers. Now, a lot of parents say 'oh, they're way ahead of me' but Brian can tell us a little bit more about the technical stuff that they're getting into, and they'll need it. The other point is that it's a program which is also for mothers. Now I might explain that. A mother has a child born minus arms or legs or injured in an accident or a medical misadventure, or something like that, and their original idea was 'well now he can walk, now he can do this, now he can do that, he can romp all around the house, there's nothing he can't do', but they're failing to realize, the mothers are, failing to realize that that's not going to get them anywhere in the work-a-day world and looking at the computers and our original program which we call JUMPSTART, we realized that if you get these kids into this program soon enough, then they become trainable in this other field which is of course what we call WEBMASTERS ... they will be, when they're finished with it, they will be ready to go out and offer their services and that has made the mothers feel a lot more composed about having to raise an injured child. Now right away, some men are going to say 'well yes, but I'm a father and what do I do'. Well, if the father wants to take the role of the Mother in this situation, let him go ahead, but generally speaking it's the mother who does all the worrying.

Nick: As somebody who is married to a mother, I know exactly what you're talking about.

HCC: Good enough.

Nick: Fair enough. Now, Brian let me come back to you for just a minute. Let's discuss your personal situation before we get into the technical aspects of this. Were you born a multiple amputee or was it an accident?

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Brian: No, I was born a multiple amputee, so I'm missing my left arm and my right arm, I have two fingers that are just pretty much attached to my elbow, so I do have a lot of function, but even then there are a lot of things that I cannot do and I need some help with and of course throughout my time with The War Amps, I've learned a lot about artificial limbs, I've learned about dealing with _____ aids, other techniques to help me be more independent, but when I was in High School, all my friends were getting jobs at the local garage or McDonalds, or the mall, and I just couldn't do that because it was way too of a demanding job for me and so I said to myself ' _____ lounging around the beach and whatnot' but you know I kind of felt I was missing out a little bit, and then in the early 90s, Cliff had started the JUMPSTART Program and really encouraging computers and this is a way to get a job and I got my first computer at that time and well, that's how I got my first summer job. I was working for the government in the Human Resources Department, processing insurance claims and whatnot and I was the computer whiz and then when I went to university, all my friends were like 'well, how did you do that', so I was teaching them how to do computer stuff, fixing the problems. I heard you earlier saying about your computer here. I know what that's like. I do that kind of stuff. So this was my way of actually getting a job and that was my first summer job. And of course I had a little jump start on my friends because right away I was getting a little higher pay and they were still stuck at McDonalds earning a wonderful _____ wage.

Nick: So what you thought was a negative turned into a positive.

Brian: Exactly, exactly, that it was.

Nick: So you turned lemons into lemonade.

Brian: That I did.

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Nick: Now, let me ask you, because I don't think you use prosthetics, is there a reason for that?

Brian: Well actually, my own personal way ... I do try them but because I was told no, you won't be able to use them, the technology at the time was just not there, it didn't work for me and now the _____ is coming to younger children. They can have an arm, a leg or all four as early as six months.

Nick: Really?

Brian: Which is really exciting and I'm so envious and jealous of the children because they have the opportunity to have a limb at that early age and it becomes part of their self image.

Nick: Of course. Now is it a possibility for you in the future? Could you go that route if you wanted to?

Brian: Oh yes. And I keep ... being able to work with that field, I'm keeping my eye on 'oh, I should try that' and I think I will be, in the near future, investigating some options because growing up I want to make sure that I don't have any back problems and a little bit of balance, so I probably realize that I need to have something now on my left side because my balance is out, but I'm so envious of the young kids who can have whatever they want at a very early age and I was told that I wouldn't have anything until I was fourteen and when I turned fourteen, I tried it out and again, it wasn't what I expected. I remember I was walking down the hall and I kind of punched one of my friends in the mid to lower _____ and I felt so bad ... so.

Nick: (laughs) Oops, sorry. (laughs)

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Brian: Yes, exactly.

Nick: That just struck me as funny. Now, because of your situation and your skill at computers, is there any possibility of moving into the prosthetics development field? Because computers are playing a larger and larger role in that. I'm just thinking that you could be completely satisfied where you are now with The War Amps and you will never leave there, but I'm thinking down the road ... if you decide to make a career choice, would that be something you'd consider?

Brian: It's probable, yes, but I'm so happy with what I'm doing, on more the education side.

Nick: Well knowing Cliff, he's such a task master ... he must just keep you guys with your nose to the grindstone all the time, right Cliff?

HCC: Yes. The other thing we could clear up is that Brian also has no legs. He's sitting here on the chair and he's got his stumps up above the belly button and he does pretty well with those. He does a lot better with what's in his mind and he really goes all out for our slogan which is 'the computers are the great equalizers'. But just to come back on it ... Brian I don't think that prosthetics is a field that you would find employment in because there are no jobs, but this program that we're talking about ... it is also sponsored by PIPS, by the Professional Institute of the Public Service and they've been giving us nice grants to get on with it. We also spend some of our money of course, but it's a program that has as it's future ... wide open. I mean I made a whole study for two, three years of what employers really wanted and if I had a buck for every employer who said I wish the heck I could get a website out there and keep it going. But it's a job all in itself. That's where we're going with this program.

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Nick: It will allow these people, like Brian, to be able to do that.

HCC: Yes, absolutely.

Nick: Alright. Well let's talk for a moment about this particular program that you've developed. You just concluded the seminar, is that right?

Brian: That's correct.

Nick: How many participants did you have?

Brian: This year we had six Champs, child amputees from across Canada, ranging in age from 10 to 17 and we had a very, very busy week. We learned, on Monday, we learned about organizing websites, understanding your audience, looking at how to write for the website, how to select the right content, the information, and then put it all together, a to-do list, a task, a plan. So again, those are marketable skills that can be applied elsewhere.

Nick: So straight resume building as well?

Brian: Oh yes, exactly, and no matter in what field or career you're in, those are the kinds of skills that you need to have ... be organized, be able to write and recognize your audience.

Nick: What's funny about that ... is a lot of times I will be railing away in the newsroom getting ready because I have to edit a lot of the stories that I read, not because I think ... to make them readable so that I can articulate them on the air, and even that I don't do very well, but a lot of times you look at it and say 'what were you thinking when you wrote this', and I've got to cut some of the reporters some slack ... they're writing, you know, for a deadline and so on, but still when

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you've got to read it, it's a different story. OK. What I'm curious about is the technology that is required because of, as an example, for somebody who has ... like you've got some use of arms to type, like to sit down and just do that, it does take some dig..... what's the word I'm looking for?

Brian: Dexterity.

Nick: Dexterity. Thank you, that's the word. That's why we pay him so much money. Anyway, the dexterity in order to do that. What kind of technology are you using to overcome the challenges for someone with no arms to type?

Brian: Every person is unique and the solution that works for them is pretty customized for them. I personally try to make sure that the kids and everyone that I work with can use a normal keyboard and mouse, because that's the most versatile and it can go anywhere from school to home to the library to a friends house.

Nick: Because that's what the rest of the world runs on.

Brian: That's what the rest of the world runs on so it's a matter of adapting yourself to the rest of the world. But if that fails, then there's all sorts of options, different kinds of mice, different shapes, different formats as opposed to a two-button mouse, you can get a track ball. And again, some of the kids actually throw that stuff on the floor and use their feet. If they have no arms, they use their feet to do that.

Nick: Now that you mention it, I had completely forgotten about it until you mentioned it. I went to school with a young lady who had no arms and she used to wear snowmobile boots all year long and her toes were far more dexterous than most peoples. She would pop her shoe off, take her foot out of the shoe,

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and she'd undo the combination on her lock and it wasn't a problem ... nobody paid her any attention because it was such a common sight and she had no problem. She'd pull her books out of her locker, stick them in her bag and she was a lot more, she had a greater sense of balance, she had a greater sense of ... it's going to sound funny, but a better sense of self-worth because she could do things a lot of people ... I hate the term normal, don't misunderstand it ... but a lot of things, like I couldn't do it, I'd fall flat on my back. You know, she would kind of giggle if anybody tried it, she'd kind of giggle and she'd say you mean like this, and she would show off. So she had a lot of fun with it. So a sense of humour, I think, is very important in this field too.

Brian: Well one of my friends from the CHAMP Program, Annae Jones, has no arms and uses her feet a lot.

Nick: Well, that's a classic example. Alright, we'll take a little break and then we're going to talk a little bit more about this technology and where the future lies for this WEBMASTER seminar that they're putting on and The War Amps in general. We'll be back with Cliff Chadderton and Brian Wade right after this on Nick & Night. 521-8255 if you have any questions.

(music and commercials)

Nick: Alright. Welcome back. Let me go back to ... first of all, Cliff, if you could tell the story ... you reminded me of something I should have mentioned right off, but go ahead and refresh my memory about a guest I had about a year ago.

HCC: Yes, her name was Annae. She was going to university, she was taking the first seminar in this JUMPSTART WEBMASTERS Program and you were kind enough to have her over here and I think she, she overwhelmed everybody,

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not only in what she could do, but what she could say and she went back to Calgary, completed her university education and got a very good job and now has two children, and I would, she is one of the people that I have looked at very carefully, almost all of my life saying 'it's alright to find an amputee like me, I have one leg off, heck that's nothing, but what if I had no legs and no arms and all I could do is put a pencil in my mouth and push a button. That's what computers are. That's why they're so adaptable, but you need the training and the experience and that's really what Annae has, I think that's what she's done for herself. She, I think next year we might even bring her down as a 'look this program really works, this is Annae's story'. We did a documentary on her by the way.

Nick: That'll be excellent because that kind of stuff is exactly the kind of motivation, especially when you get brand new people in the program, they need to know that somebody else has already done this, it's not impossible, it's not as hard as it seems, and that's why motivational speakers make so much money. To tell you the truth. On the motivational speaker's circuit, they go around and show people what they went through, how they did it, and that you can do it too.

Now I want to get back to the technology thing for just a minute because I've always found that fascinating. Is there a lot of use of voice recognition technology?

Brian: Yes. Some of the kids do use voice recognition but again it's a fairly new technology and it's a little glitchy at times and it takes a lot of patience which is one of the things that young children do not have.

Nick: (laughs) Even I don't have it most of the time.

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Brian: Even some adults don't have that, yes. It does take a lot of patience. A lot of people try it out and again, through our JUMPSTART Program, we provide that opportunity for our members to try the technology to see what it can do. We have regular _____ seminars where we showcase and talk about new trends and what's coming up in technology and that's one of the things that's the popular topic ... is what's new in keyboards and voice recognition and mice. It's so important because everything we do nowadays is on a computer. You go the bank, you go to the grocery store, everything is on the computer. And now a-days not many people _____, there's a lot of touch screen. But again, that's the _____ question, if you have no arms, then how do you touch the screen. So we do have different devices, pointing sticks. Again, some of the kids use them in their mouth, they put the little stick in their mouth and they can touch the screen or touch the keyboard or have a special adapted artificial arm that can help with that as well.

Nick: But all that takes skill that's covered in practice.

Brian: Yes and an opportunity of just seeing what's out there and what's so great about our WEBMASTERS Seminar Program and our JUMPSTART Seminars. It's just an opportunity to see what's out there and interacting. If you use the technology and get to play Well, I'm not going to use the word 'play with' ... but you learn what it can do for you, it's a tool, I mean it's a tool, and that's why I keep telling these young Champs, young kids, is that computers are fun, you know, but it's a tool, it's a tool to help you out.

Nick: Now, are you getting any support from the private sector, from the people who makes these particular, whether it's the technology like voice recognition, or the hardware such as the specialized different bits and pieces that you need? Is there much support from them?

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Brian: Since we've been airing some TV Public Service Announcements and JUMPSTART is becoming a well-known word in the public, in the media, in the eye, the public eye, we do get a lot of phone calls from different people in companies' representatives wanting to share, again, I get sometimes advance notice as to what's coming up so I can talk about it at our seminars to our children, our kids in the programs. Sometimes I get the inside scoop of what is coming up in the future which some other people may not have so it's really exciting in that regard too.

Nick: I would imagine it is and even from a cold analytical business point of view it makes sense, because this is a market that a lot of people would either overlook or not be aware of because you know, let's face it, most of us don't encounter multiple amputees on an everyday basis. Unless of course it's a family member or somebody like that. You know, or even if you do see one walking around, and I don't mean to sound if you see a person like that walking down the street, you know, it kind of bounces off your bubble, if I can put it that way. There's no thought about, you know, what that person's experience like, how do they get through the day, how do they deal with this or that, and there is a whole market there, and I'm looking at this from a business point of view, that could be exploited is the wrong term, but you know what I mean ... to be serviced is a better way of putting it. So it would make sense to me that people like IBM and all those different companies would say 'hey, we should go after that'.

Brian: Another problem too is that a lot of these special keyboards and software and technology is rather expensive because it is such a niche market but, again, through public donations to The War Amps Key Tag Service, Cliff's vision and strategy of promoting technology, we can help offset some of that cost for the families and again it is a way for them to try it out, to have what they need so that they can be independent, and that's what the JUMPSTART

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WEBMASTERS Program is all about --- independence. Small things that we ... we had six kids this week and we had them at the office all day so again just getting the chairs, the desks and computers set up, the washrooms, having meals, is an opportunity for some of the younger kids to see how the older kids can manage on their own. So there's a lot more going on than just the computer side of it and learning on the computer and about computers. So it's a lot of learning going on in a short period of time so it's really exciting in that regard as well.

Nick: So a lot of really good reasons to contribute to The War Amps?

Brian: Yes.

HCC: Nick, I'd just like to mention one other thing. There is a fellow that I know in this town, I golf with him occasionally, he started a fish shop, a fish business, and he came to me one day and he said 'you know, I can't compete any longer', he said 'the big stores have got the screen all to themselves, I can't afford computer technology, I can't afford a website', so I got the idea and I did a lot of talking with him, even going down to his shop and seeing how he handled the cash coming in, cash flow, that type of thing, and then I said 'it's all there, you just need somebody who can set up website because instead of spending all of your money on advertising, you will continue to advertise but you will have an additional budget where you're using the website as an advertisement tool, and he said 'great idea' and as Brian knows, we tried it out with him. We set up a website for him. Now he's got his kids running it, as a matter of fact.

Nick: Another reason to have a lot of kids.

HCC: That's right. But it's a two-way street. He has the need for WEBMASTERS to run his business. On the other hand, we have the kids, the

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people who have to bring their skill level up to where they can really do this and it's not going to cost him, and you'll laugh at this, it's not going to cost him an arm and a leg.

Nick: (laughs)

HCC: As we say in The War Amps.

Nick: Now, Cliff, let me kind of wrap up the show with this. When you look ahead for the organization War Amps in general, overall, how do you see the future, what does it look like?

HCC: We'll always be around and our constitution, and I've insisted on this, our constitution provides that when we can no longer run it, we will know, we'd be crazy not to, we will know and it will be turned over to the youngsters like Brian who ... We have about sixteen graduates from our CHAMP Program working with us now ... salaried employees. Now they have the most to lose if it doesn't succeed and we'll be having a conference in August with those people to ready them to take over the programs and everything that we have built over the years and the public knows it as War Amps ... we may not even change the name, we haven't come to that yet.

Nick: No, I see no reason to do that. So, but in a nutshell, what I hear you saying is you're looking for some time off so you can go fishing.

HCC: No, I took some time off last winter on a cruise to the Antarctic ... that'd do me for another 40 years.

Nick: Now, you weren't on the ship that sank down there?

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HCC: No, we were in the next ship (laughs) which was even worse and not only that we ran into a sandbar and all the dining table we were sitting at was on the floor. My wife said to me 'OK hero, what do we do now?'. Swim! Oh dear.

Nick: Alright. Well listen gentlemen, I really wish you all the best in the future, Cliff and Brian. This is a great cause, it's a great thing that you're doing and it has been my pleasure to have you in the studio this evening and I certainly hope that you come back again.

Brian: Oh, of course. Thank you for having us.

Nick: Believe me, I enjoy this ... it was a lot of fun. Cliff, it's been good to see you again and you really are looking good.

HCC: I feel great.

Nick: Hang on. Alright folks, we're going to wrap it up a couple seconds earlier because I could go on all night if you let me. I'll be back again tomorrow morning with the (tape finished)