CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A CHAMPION  
Bill Monbouquette

THE HUMAN TOUCH  
Creating Intuitive Machines • DESTINATION: HOME

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GETTING JARRET HOME
Champions come in all shapes and sizes. Some are sports champions. Some are champions of a particular cause or idea. And a rare few are both.

A few months ago, the Crotched Mountain community mourned the loss of such a rare champion in the passing of long-time friend and volunteer, former Red Sox Hall-of-Fame pitcher, Bill Monbouquette.

For close to 20 years, both Bill and his wife Josephine were tireless ambassadors for Crotched Mountain’s mission to support individuals living with the most complex challenges. As leadership donors and volunteers, they often visited the children at Crotched Mountain School and the patients in our Specialty Hospital, talking and reminiscing. And once in a while, Bill even played a game of baseball.

Bill chaired our Annual Fund for several years. In 2014, he led the Annual Fund to surpass the $3 million mark for the first time in our 60-year history. In his leadership role, Bill was a frequent guest speaker at events and he never tired of describing his love for and commitment to the children and adults who look to Crotched Mountain for education, rehabilitation and lifelong support.

Bill was a founding member of the Don Kent Legacy Society, which honors people who have made or intend to make a planned gift to Crotched Mountain. And in 2014, he was the second recipient of the Don Kent Legacy Award for his lifetime of service to the community and people with special needs.

Last year, Bill brought the Red Sox World Series trophies to Crotched Mountain for the enjoyment of all the members of the Crotched Mountain community. Bill posed for photos with students, patients and staff and their families. Throughout the long afternoon, Bill never missed a beat, greeting every fan with a smile and a kind word.

We will always be reminded of Bill’s legacy as we dedicate our baseball field, located at the center of our campus, naming it the William (Monbo) and Josephine Monbouquette Baseball Field.

Finally, Bill taught us what we could expect from our champions—a gift for sharing one’s talents, generosity of spirit and steadfast dedication to a cause that makes the world a better place. We will miss our champion. And we take comfort in the knowledge that his legacy lives on in the lifelong alliances we forge with people with disabilities.
MACHINES CAN BE PRETTY COOL, especially for people who use technology to help with daily tasks. But if user and machine don’t communicate well, the most sophisticated technology can fail. Enter occupational therapist David Kontak, MA, MS, OTR/L, assistive technology specialist for Crotched Mountain. Since 2007, Dave has worked with the UMass-Lowell Robotics Lab to design research studies and user interfaces on a number of different experimental devices.

The Long Arm of Assistance

Dave’s initial partnership with the lab focused on improving the interface of a robotic arm that attaches to the arm of a user’s wheelchair. An early model was tested in a controlled environment where a user would utilize a touch screen to command the arm to reach for an object on a shelf. According to Dave, the latest model, which comes to Crotched Mountain with a $95,000 research grant from the National Science Foundation, will feature a more intuitive interface. “Instead of a two dimensional touch screen, the user will use a pointer to direct the movement of the arm.” Dave observes that pointing in the three dimensional world is more intuitive than working from a two-dimensional touch screen. “The goal is to make this device accessible to people with physical or cognitive challenges. So, the more intuitive we can make it, the more useful it will be to a variety of users.”

Say Hello to Blue!

Last fall, UMass-Lowell robot Blue spent some time at Crotched Mountain, as Dave set out to test a theory that robots might be effective teachers of social skills for some people on the autism spectrum. “Many kids with autism are fascinated by robots. We’re not exactly sure why, but it might have to do with predictability,” explains Dave. Blue mimics human behaviors, so Dave asked seven Crotched Mountain School students with autism who are verbal, but who don’t typically return greetings, to meet Blue several times a day for a period of time to determine if the students would respond to Blue’s greeting cues. “We had some success but results were mixed,” reports Dave. “The pool wasn’t quite big enough for conclusive results, which is why testing continues under a new grant next year.”

Research at the UMass-Lowell Robotics Lab and at Crotched Mountain is funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the U.S. Army Research Office and Microsoft Research.
Jarret tends to his shop’s woodstove, which he fashioned from a beer keg.

Jarret is what you might call a mechanical genius. When he takes a machine apart and puts it back together, you can be sure it will work better than ever. His dad, Larry, says he’s known by neighbors and friends as the guy who can improvise a fix on the spot with whatever happens to be lying around his workshop—where he happily spends most of his time.

Last summer, Jarret, age 23, spent the day fishing with his buddies. He got home late in the evening and, having trouble getting to sleep, thought he’d relax by taking a dirt bike he’d been working on out for a spin. Unfortunately, he lost control of the bike, crashed and sustained a traumatic brain injury, facial fractures and loss of mobility on his right side. He was hospitalized for 17 days before being admitted to Crotched Mountain Specialty Hospital while still in a coma.

Twice a week, Jarret’s mom Amanda made the five-hour round trip to Crotched Mountain from their home in Vermont. She recalls that during the first few weeks Jarret moved some, “but it was clear he wasn’t aware of what was going on around him.” According to speech/language pathologist Allura Poulin, M.S., CCC-SLP, Jarret didn’t respond to stimulus and lacked the purposeful, reliable responses that would indicate awareness or intention.

During this time, Jarret’s treatment team systematically
employed a variety of methods to stimulate him. They played
his favorite music, showed him photos of his family and dog
and introduced various tastes to stimulate swallowing. “Coma
recovery stimulation is a multi-modality
approach to assess and track a patient’s emer-
gence from a coma. No two patients or
injuries are the same, so we employ different
modalities to see what the patient responds
to most consistently,” explains Allura.

It wasn’t until Jarret emerged from his
coma almost a month later that Amanda
began to feel real hope for his recovery. “I
walked into his room and he was sitting in
his wheelchair as usual,” she recalls. “But
when I made eye contact, I knew something was different. He
recognized me and lifted his left arm to greet me.” From then
on Jarret’s greatest motivator was to return home to his family,
his workshop and the projects he loves.

“After Jarret emerged from the coma, our priority was
communication,” recalls Allura. “As a team we were looking for
consistent comprehension and responses to yes and no questions
so that he could tell us what he needed and respond to direc-
tions.” Weeks of physical, occupational and speech therapy
followed to strengthen his right side, work on standing, balance
and walking and relearn activities of daily living. Occupational
therapist Amanda Jennison, M.S., OTR/L, remembers the
moment Jarret realized he could use his right arm. “It was a
motivating breakthrough for him. He’s one of the only people
I’ve ever worked with who would remind me to put his arm
brace on.”

Jarret’s mom and his team agree that speech was Jarret’s
greatest challenge. “He was very motivated to use his own voice
rather than a communication board,” says Allura. “He could be
hard on himself, and we would constantly remind him of how
far he’d come.”

Another great motivator was food. Until he could swallow
safely, Jarret had a feeding tube and he couldn’t wait to resume
eating his favorite foods. “In fact, some of his first words were
‘Taco Bell’ and ‘I want a burrito,’” recalls Allura. “He was
always hungry!”

Today, Jarret is home with the people he loves, pursuing
the activities that interest him. His mom reports he’s already
built a new bike from parts, resurrected a vintage 1970s
snowmobile and made an outboard motor from a weed
whacker. “His talent for finding creative solutions is intact,”
says Amanda. “He can rebuild or repurpose anything!”

Jarret recently began to attend outpatient
therapies in the community. “On the day of
his first speech appointment, he was up and
dressed by 6:30 a.m.,” reports Amanda, who
adds his speech continues to improve and
he can walk a short distance now with a
quad cane.

Jarret says the hardest thing about his
rehab was being away from home. His stay at
Crotched Mountain was a long, tough journey.
And it was extremely hard work. “But if my
story can help someone else get better, I’m happy to share it,”
says Jarret.

Finally, Jarret’s advice to anyone with a recent TBI and to
their family and friends is to “never give up, keep saying ‘I can
do it, I can do it’ and also just keep trying—no matter how
many times you fail. Stay positive. There is always hope.”
Nancy Katin believes that what Crotched Mountain has done is a miracle. She also loves to support charitable causes that make such a big impact in the lives of others.

“I was interested in philanthropy all my life,” says Nancy, “but when I was younger and caring for my own family, I didn’t have money to give. So, instead, I gave time and volunteered where I could.” To this day, volunteering remains a big part of who she is. She also feels fortunate that she can now extend her philanthropic interests to financially support a small list of charities.

Nancy’s first introduction to Crotched Mountain was decades ago when she visited campus for a vintage car fundraising event. While there, she heard about Crotched Mountain’s reputation as a local charity providing world-renowned services to those with special needs. Years later, when her beautiful grandchild, JD, was diagnosed with autism, she recalled this unique organization. She thought of Crotched Mountain as her family struggled to cope with extraordinary challenges as JD transformed from a happy toddler playing in her garden to a frightened little boy unable to process his surroundings while doing terrible harm to himself and others. From ages eight to thirteen, JD was placed in several psychiatric hospitals before Nancy’s daughter, Kim, decided Crotched Mountain might be the last chance for her son to grow and learn.

Nancy’s knowledge about Crotched Mountain quickly grew from novice to expert as she witnessed the specially trained teachers and clinicians who had the right skills and experience to help JD, noting a total commitment to state-of-the-art care. Nancy knows a top-quality education program when she sees one: her late husband was a high school teacher all his life and Nancy herself an elementary school teacher for over 30 years. Given her background, coupled with her growing appreciation for JD’s growth, it wasn’t long before Nancy knew that her philanthropy should also support Crotched Mountain. As Nancy says, “I see first-hand the difference my dollars make for young people at Crotched Mountain who have such difficult challenges. For JD, it took so long to see results and yet his team was so patient. JD’s progress would stall and he would regress, but they did not give up and would find a new approach to continue his success. They helped him become a happy child again. Today, he is an engaging and confident young man. This is truly a miracle.”

Nancy knows her gifts support those extra resources that make success happen every day at Crotched Mountain. As she remarks, “Special training for the skilled staff, unique vocational and therapeutic programs like equine and aquatics—these are the resources JD could only find at Crotched Mountain. These matter most for children with the most severe challenges.”

For more information on ways to make your giving matter the most through monthly giving or through an estate planning instrument such as a gift annuity, contact Kevin Harte, senior manager, Development, at kevin.harte@crotchedmountain.org or call 603.547.1489

Nancy’s grandson, JD, a student at Crotched Mountain School, enjoys making art. A recent series of pictures featuring textures and spirals adorn the walls of his room.
**MISS NEW HAMPSHIRE 2014 Megan Cooley**, whose platform is “Championing Abilities,” recently visited students, clients and staff at CM and skied with three participants during their adaptive ski lessons with Crotched Mountain Accessible Recreation and Sports (CMARS). “It was great to spend the day here and see first-hand CMARS’s dedication to serving children and adults of all abilities,” said Megan, who also sang the national anthem at the Bruins Alumni Classic. Megan will speak at the Crotched Mountain School graduation this spring.

**HERE BE DRAGONS**

Students in Eric Peterson’s art class at CMS recently finished a project based on the illustration style of Eric Carle’s popular book, *Dragons, Dragons*. “He was an ideal artist to focus on because the art classes have been working on collage techniques similar to those used by Carle,” explains Eric. The students chose from six dragon stencil designs to trace its shape. Then they used recycled scrap paper from previous projects to decorate the dragon bodies. To meet other dragons residing at CMS, go to cmf.org/dragons.

**COLD PLUNGE, WARM HEARTS**

Crotched Mountain employees and friends participated in the Annual Penguin Plunge for NH Special Olympics on Super Bowl Sunday at Hampton Beach. While many of us were warm and watching pregame shows, our super heroes, Sarah Graham, Amy Simmons, Jenn Clarke, Justin Stephens and Parker Bennett (not shown) braved 41° water and 18° air to raise $1,965 for Special Olympics and the Crotched Mountain Special Olympics team. Thanks super heroes!

**WILD AND BRUINS FACE-OFF**

The Boston Bruins Alumni laced up their skates on Sunday, February 8 for a game against the Crotched Mountain Wild, a team of employees and friends of Crotched Mountain, for the fifth annual Bruins Alumni Classic at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. The game, which benefits Crotched Mountain Accessible Recreation and Sports (CMARS), raised nearly $32,000. “We are very honored to support CMARS, which allows children and adults of all abilities to experience the thrill of racing down a ski slope, cycling down a shady lane, paddling a kayak and other recreational activities,” said Rick Middleton, Bruins Alumni captain.

**Dropping the puck: Stan Newsham, Megan Cooley, former CM patient Caleb and Bob Sweeney**

The CMARS program extends its gratitude to all the players who helped to raise these funds and to our corporate sponsors, including premier sponsors: RBC Wealth Management of Nashua; Public Consulting Group; USI New England; and our major sponsors: All Metals Industries, Inc.; Bank of New Hampshire; Clark & Lavey Benefits Solutions, Inc.; Robert J. Devereaux Corporation; RTM Communications, Inc.; Sturm, Ruger and Company, Inc.; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Corrections Corporation of America; Dr. Bryan Hoertdoerfer, Hoertdoerfer Dentistry; Holloway Motors; Mosse & Mosse Associates, Inc.; New Boston Pizza; and New England Utility Constructors (Neuco).
Thirteenth Annual Crotched Mountain Golf Classic

Monday, June 29, 2015

Enjoy 18 holes of golf and a boxed lunch at Crotched Mountain Resort in Franestown, New Hampshire, followed by a buffet at the end of play with terrific prizes and contests in support of Crotched Mountain.

Space is limited to the first 32 foursomes. Register online at crotchedmountain.org/golf. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information
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