

MANUEL

RECIPIENT OF: BONE AND SKIN ALLOGRAFT



QUADRUPLE AMPUTEE STANDS TALL AGAIN

Twenty-two year old Manuel had just begun work on a construction site in Georgia when, in an instant, his life was changed forever. A crane on the job site hit a power line, sending it to the ground where he was standing, and hitting him twice with 115,000 volts of electricity. While exposure to this dose of electricity is enough to kill anyone, miraculously Manuel survived to tell the tale.

However, his injuries were grave. His burns were life threatening and required that his arms and legs be amputated. The emotional struggle ahead of him as a quadruple amputee was overwhelming.

"I didn't understand why they had saved my life," he said. "I didn't think life could go on."

But press on he did, and he was given new hope numerous times from the help of donated allograft tissue, a gift from deceased human donors. AlloSource provided the life-saving skin grafts to cover Salazar's burns and promote healing.

After his stay in the burn unit he was brought to the Denver Clinic for Extremities at Risk. Because of the extent of his amputations, it was difficult to fit prosthetics for Manuel.

Dr. Ross Wilkins and the team at the center again used human tissue processed at AlloSource to help Manuel's mobility. Donor bone was used to help build him a shoulder. Along with muscle from Manuel's back, the new shoulder can sustain a lightweight, highly functional prosthetic. With the new shoulder and prosthetic he can now feed himself, brush his teeth and

even scratch his head, many simple things that he could not accomplish before.

Despite his ongoing physical setbacks, Manuel insists that he is the same man he was before the accident six years ago. In fact, his stubbies (short prosthetic legs that allow him to walk in a shuffling motion,) and wheelchair have hardly held him back:



he skis, water-skis, swims, drives and recently went skydiving. He also opened an auto body shop called Progressive Auto Works in Colorado and employs a team of people.

"I'm thankful to be alive," said Manuel. "I want to try new things. I see life in a whole new way."

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Manuel speaks often to groups and inspires others with his incredible spirit.

“Manuel is truly a hero for persevering through unimaginable circumstances in recovering from his accident and as a quadruple amputee.

He completely embodies the miracle and possibility of tissue donation,” said Thomas Cycyota, AlloSource President and CEO.
