

greet LAKE OSWEGO

MEET SCOTT HATLEY

A Beacon of
Inspiration in our
Community!



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Turning Obstacles Into Opportunities:

Meet Scott Hatley



In the heart of our community lives a man whose life is a testament to resilience, hope, and the power of community. Scott Hatley, a Co-Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit INCIGHT, has turned his personal challenges into a beacon of inspiration for others. A fifth-generation

Oregonian, Scott's deep roots in the state are matched only by his commitment to transforming lives, particularly those of people with disabilities.

A LEGACY OF RESILIENCE

Scott Hatley was born and raised in West Linn, Oregon, a town that has shaped much of his life. A proud 1997 graduate of West Linn High School and a 2001 alumnus of the University of Portland, Scott's journey has been defined by a relentless pursuit of purpose and community service. Diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at the age of four and a half, Scott has never allowed his diagnosis to dictate his potential. Instead, he has harnessed his challenges, leveraging them as opportunities to help others do the same.

As an avid sports fan, Scott's love for the Trail Blazers and local high school and college sports reflects his deep connection to the community. But beyond his passion for sports lies a greater mission—one of dismantling societal stigmas and unlocking the full potential of people with disabilities. Through INCIGHT, Scott has dedicated his life to this cause, challenging limiting beliefs and demonstrating that



Scott with JD Duran during a 2023 Job Fair event at Portland State

obstacles, when properly understood, can become the foundation for personal and collective growth.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY: THE CORNERSTONES OF SCOTT'S LIFE

Scott's family plays a crucial role in his life, providing both support and inspiration. His parents still reside in the West Linn home where Scott grew up, a testament to the stability and deep roots that have characterized his upbringing. His sister, a Neuro/Trauma ICU nurse at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, and his brother-in-law, a firefighter with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, are examples of the commitment to service that runs in the family. Together, they are raising three daughters in Lake Oswego—Hazel, June, and Opal—whose boundless energy and joy bring light to the entire family.

For Scott, Lake Oswego is more than just a matter of geography; it's about being part of a community that values accessibility, safety, and inclusivity. The area's parks, with their views of the Willamette River and thoughtful design, are a source of enjoyment for Scott and his nieces, offering spaces where they can connect with nature and each other without the constraints of accessibility barriers.

INCIGHT: A VISIONARY MISSION WITH LOCAL IMPACT

In 2004, Scott co-founded INCIGHT with the vision of creating a world of great contributions where people with disabilities are not just included but celebrated for their unique strengths and abilities. As the Executive Director for the past seven years, Scott has led INCIGHT through a period of significant evolution, focusing on two primary objectives: helping individuals with disabilities leverage the obstacles they face and changing societal perceptions through education and advocacy.

Under Scott's leadership, INCIGHT has become a cornerstone for the disability community, offering

resources that empower individuals to pursue education, secure employment, and achieve independence. The organization's mission—"Change Hearts and Minds. Leverage Obstacles. Unlock Potential."—is more than a tagline; it is a call to action for the entire community. By offering scholarships, hosting job fairs, and providing empowerment curricula, INCIGHT helps individuals overcome barriers and reach their full potential.

Scott's dedication to this mission is driven by a deep understanding of the challenges people with disabilities face. Despite the transformative impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), significant gaps remain, particularly in employment opportunities. Statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that only 19.1% of people with disabilities aged 16 and over are employed, compared to 63.7% of those without disabilities. This disparity underscores the importance of INCIGHT's work, which is focused on not just providing resources but also shifting cultural perspectives and attitudes.

A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY: INCIGHT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

This year marks the 20th anniversary of INCIGHT, a milestone that the organization will celebrate with a fundraising Gala on October 5th at Ironlight in downtown Lake Oswego. The event is not just a celebration of INCIGHT's achievements but also an opportunity to strengthen connections with the local community and raise awareness about the ongoing hurdles faced by people with disabilities.

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Scott sees the Gala as a chance to bring together local businesses, community members, and supporters to further INCIGHT's mission. By attending the event, becoming a donor, or getting involved in other ways, individuals can make a tangible difference in the lives of those facing barriers to success. The Gala also serves as a reminder that, while much has been accomplished, there is still work to be done to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, can contribute to their fullest potential.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED: BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

For those looking to support INCIGHT's mission, there are numerous ways to get involved. From mentoring scholarship recipients to assisting with job fairs, there are opportunities for everyone to make an impact. Businesses can also play a crucial role by becoming corporate donors, hiring individuals with disabilities, sponsoring events, or engaging in INCIGHT disability awareness events. Scott encourages anyone with a passion for making a difference to join INCIGHT's efforts, whether through volunteering, contributing to their magazine, *The UNDERSTANDING*, or helping organize events like the annual Gala and Golf Tournament.

Scott's message is clear: By working together, we can change the narrative around disability, unlocking the potential that resides within every individual. For Scott and the INCIGHT team, the future is bright, filled with

the promise of continued growth and the fulfillment of a mission that has already touched countless lives.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE NEXT CHAPTER

As INCIGHT moves into its next 20 years, Scott is optimistic about the future. He believes that more potential resides within the disability community than has historically been realized. By breaking down societal stigma and fostering a culture of high expectations, INCIGHT is paving the way for a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

The organization's ongoing efforts in education and employment are crucial to this vision. By providing the tools and resources needed to overcome barriers, INCIGHT is not just helping individuals achieve independence; it is also changing the way society views disability. As Scott and his team look to the future, they are committed to continuing the work started by the authors of the ADA, ensuring that its full potential is realized for all people with disabilities.

CONCLUSION: A LIFE OF PURPOSE AND IMPACT

Scott Hatley's story is one of perseverance, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the community. From his roots in West Linn to his role as a leader in the nonprofit sector, Scott has consistently demonstrated that obstacles are not roadblocks but opportunities for growth. Through his work with INCIGHT, he has touched the

lives of many, helping them unlock their potential and contribute to a better, more inclusive world.

For Scott, the journey is far from over. With the support of his family, friends, and the community, he continues to push boundaries, challenging the status quo and creating a future where everyone, regardless of their abilities, can live a life of purpose and fulfillment. As Lake Oswego celebrates the contributions of individuals like Scott, it is clear that this community is not just a place to live but a place where lives are transformed, one obstacle at a time.

Interested in attending the gala on October 5th or being a sponsor? Visit www.INCIGHT.org/gala2024 or email scott@incight.org.



To learn more about INCIGHT and/or get involved: www.incight.org

INCIGHT's JobsNow Job Fair Events:
www.jobsnow.org

INCIGHT's magazine
The Understanding:
www.theunderstandingmagazine.com