

# THOMAS E. SMITH

*"The Walking Miracle"*

*Pivot to  
Your Purpose™*



# WHO IS THOMAS E. SMITH?

SURVIVOR | ENTREPRENEUR | PHILANTHROPISTS | SPEAKER

*The first person in medical history to recover from sustaining three separate paralyzing injuries*



*"For most people the idea of being paralyzed even once is hard to wrap their head around. But what they don't realize is that everybody faces paralysis on a daily basis. Maybe not physical paralysis like I have experienced, but there are moments in life—at work, in relationships, when facing an uncertain future—that paralyze us emotionally, mentally, or spiritually, and either prevent us from moving forward or make us lose hope. So, in that way, we are all connected by this thing known as paralysis."*

- Thomas E. Smith

Thomas Smith was born to play hockey. His aggressive style, speed and will to win made him one of the top players in New England high school hockey. Upon graduating from high school, he received several Division 1 letters of interest. However, his career was tragically cut after he sustained two separate paralyzing accidents while playing hockey. After his second accident, he was again on his road to recovery when the unthinkable happened. Thomas and his father were crashed into by a distracted driver and he became instantly paralyzed for a third time.

*"Thomas' story is inspirational, heroic, and provides each of us an opportunity to reflect on what is holding us back from pursuing our purpose."*

- Marques Colston, Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints Wide Receiver and Founder of Columbia Business School's Continuing Education Program for Professional Athletes



Thomas has been featured in:





*"I was at a crossroads and didn't know if I wanted to live or die. However, one thing was certain; if I was going to choose to live, I would be forced to pivot to my purpose and face my challenges."*

**- Thomas E. Smith**





Founded from his hospital bed, The Thomas E. Smith Foundation (TESF) serves as a beacon of hope within the paralysis community. Since its inception, TESF has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to victims of spinal cord injuries.

The Thomas E. Smith foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to better the lives of those affected by and living with paralysis through financial and emotional support, as well as supporting preventive innovations that decrease the risk of spinal cord injuries.



**To continue to be a leader in helping the paralysis community find a cure, The Foundation has created dynamic divisions and community events which include:**

### Just Cure Paralysis Golf Tournament

An annual event that serves as The Foundation's summit for its donors, grant recipients and volunteers the paralysis community.

### Quality of Life Grants

A division those focuses on gifting grants to help maximize the mobility for those living with paralysis

### Dance for Paralysis

An opportunity for TESF and celebrities to collaborate within the entertainment industry to raise funds for the paralysis community

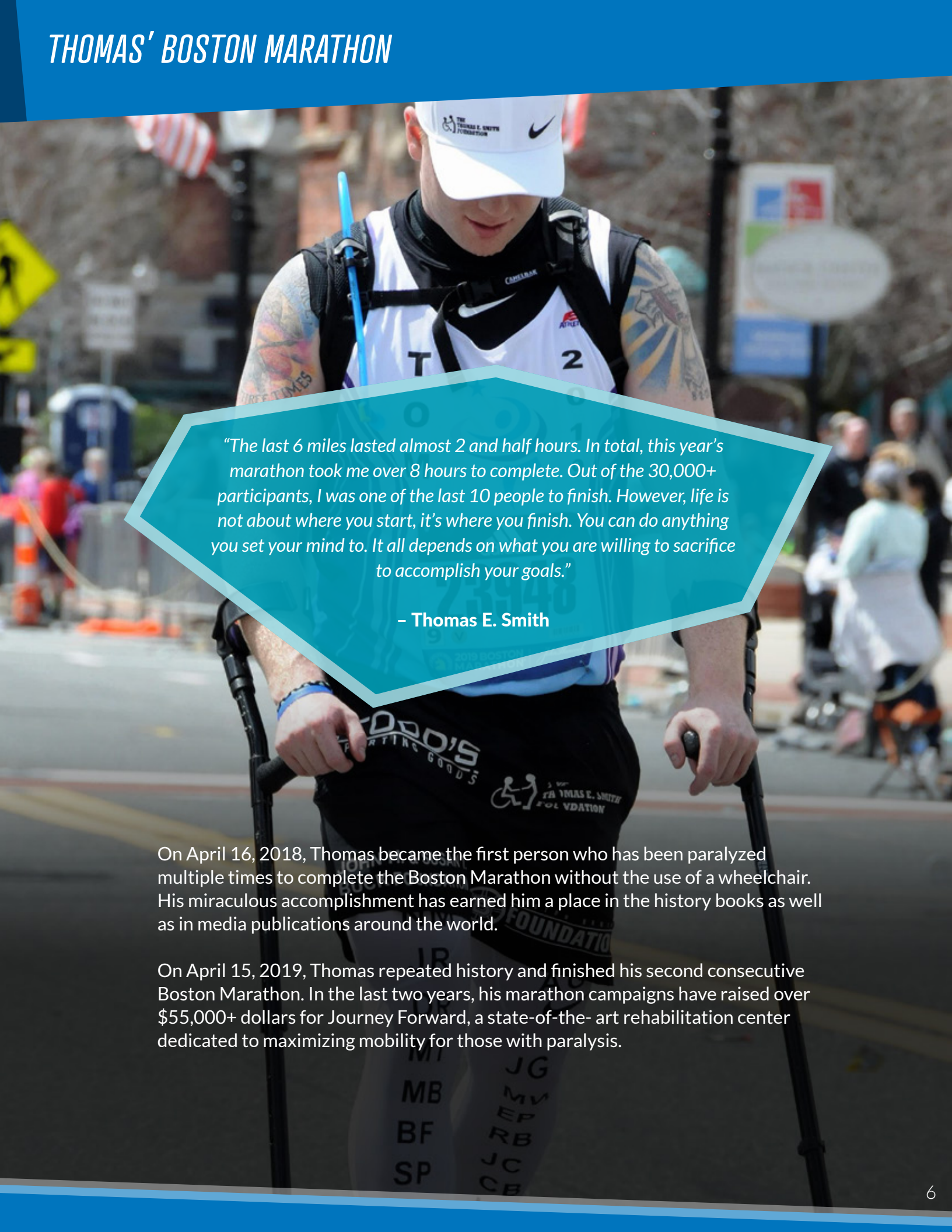
### Boston Bruins Partnership:

A collaborative fundraising and awareness effort between The Foundation and The NHL Boston Bruins to help those suffering from paralysis.

### Reality Ride Challenge

A multi-day, 2,109-mile cycling event from Boston, MA to Miami, FL, Thomas and participants raised \$100,000 for paralysis research at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. The group averaged 65 miles a day on a bike, three miles in a hand cycling wheelchair in recognition of his three accidents, as well as a one-mile walk.

# THOMAS' BOSTON MARATHON



*"The last 6 miles lasted almost 2 and half hours. In total, this year's marathon took me over 8 hours to complete. Out of the 30,000+ participants, I was one of the last 10 people to finish. However, life is not about where you start, it's where you finish. You can do anything you set your mind to. It all depends on what you are willing to sacrifice to accomplish your goals."*

**- Thomas E. Smith**

On April 16, 2018, Thomas became the first person who has been paralyzed multiple times to complete the Boston Marathon without the use of a wheelchair. His miraculous accomplishment has earned him a place in the history books as well as in media publications around the world.

On April 15, 2019, Thomas repeated history and finished his second consecutive Boston Marathon. In the last two years, his marathon campaigns have raised over \$55,000+ dollars for Journey Forward, a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center dedicated to maximizing mobility for those with paralysis.



# INVENTOR OF THE LOOK-UP LINE™

*The Look-Up Line™, ice hockey's first ever warning track, is a patented invention installed in hockey rinks to reduce the risk of head and neck injury*

The 40-inch warning track does not affect the speed, intensity, heritage or add anymore rules to the game; nor does it overlap any face-off dots, lower circles or hash marks.

The Look Up Line™ is recognized by:



## The Look-Up Line serves to:

1. Warn players to keep their heads up when approaching the boards to decrease the risk of injuries
2. Warn players to be careful not to body check (contact) opposing players from behind
3. Give players an opportunity to make proper bodily adjustments before hitting the boards
4. Alleviate the failure to warn (board related) issue that currently exists at all hockey levels
5. Remind coaches and officials to continue to inform players about safety in hockey

## Who should care about The Look-Up Line?

- Every parent of a hockey or figure skater
- Every player, coach and official as the Look-Up Line aims to provide longevity for all who skate.
- Governing bodies within the sport
- Medical professionals who are working to reduce the risk of concussions and neck injuries within hockey

## Progress to date:

- Mandated by the Governor of Massachusetts, Governor Charles Baker, for all state-owned hockey rinks
- Mandated by Boston's Mayor Marty Walsh for all city owned rinks.
- Endorsed by New Hampshire Governor, Governor Chris Sununu, for all state-owned hockey rinks
- Recognized by USA Hockey and implemented within their annual rule book
- Recognized by the NCAA and implemented with their annual rule book
- Recognized and tested by the NHL at the NHL prospect games

**Thomas' mission is to implement the Look-Up Line in every hockey rink in the world.**

# MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER



Thomas has been invited to speak before elite groups, including



Thomas engages audiences with the same commitment and enthusiasm that helped him overcome paralysis three times. His message helps others pivot to their purpose by helping them to discover that overcoming their own setbacks can in fact direct them to a higher level of success, a more meaningful life, and free them from whatever paralysis is keeping them from realizing their potential.

## THOMAS E. SMITH SPEAKS ON TOPICS SUCH AS:

**PIVOT YOUR STRATEGY:** Tools for sales, marketing, and product development professionals to effortlessly transition from one idea to the next

**EMBRACING PURPOSE**

**CONTROLLING YOUR OWN DESTINY**

**PIVOT TO YOUR PURPOSE**

**SEIZING THE MOMENT**

**DISCOVERING YOUR PASSION AND LIVING YOUR PURPOSE**

**OVERCOMING ADVERSITY AND RECLAIMING HOPE**

**ESTABLISHING AN INTERNAL LOCUS OF CONTROL**



## ABOUT THOMAS E. SMITH

Since he was young, Thomas' dream to play professional hockey occupied his every moment. His aggressive style, relentless tenacity, passion for the game and lightning speed on the ice made him a star, and eventually garnered attention from collegiate and professional scouts.

Suddenly, Thomas' dreams were threatened during a game when he collided head-first into the boards, leaving him paralyzed. But a miraculous and painstaking recovery put him back on the ice, until, tragically, Thomas again collided head-first into the boards, resulting in a second unrelated paralyzing injury. Doctors told him he had a better chance of winning the lottery five times in a row than have two completely unrelated accidents resulting in paralysis.

However, determined to beat paralysis a second time, Thomas began outpatient physical therapy after spending over a month in the hospital. But just a few months into what was shaping up to be another against-all-odds recovery, Thomas' world would be crushed in a car accident with his father, only to be paralyzed a third time. At that moment, it was too much. Life had been too cruel.

Where his first two accidents only increased his resolve, the third paralyzing accident broke his spirit and made him begin to see a world where he would never walk again. This put Thomas in a tailspin. However, Thomas' spirit was stronger than the grip of paralysis – he refused to quit, persevered and fought on.

After his third accident, Thomas pivoted his life from a passion for hockey to his purpose, The Thomas E. Smith Foundation (TESF). In short, Thomas E. Smith is a warrior. A champion. An inspiration. A hero.

Today, Thomas and TESH serve as a beacon of hope within the paralysis community. His Foundation has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to victims of spinal cord injuries and has afforded Thomas the opportunity to speak around the country to help others overcome their personal and professional challenges while igniting the fire within each person to better live a life filled with purpose.

