

Comedian Artie Lange headlines fund-raiser for Beverly Hills man

Comedian Artie Lange headlines fund-raiser for Quicken Loans employee

BY JAY M. GROSSMAN • ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER • SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

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on the way.



Adam Niskar has a great job, a wonderful fiancée and a baby

Best of all, he still has Allie.

"She's my best friend," he said about the playful black retriever. "I'd do anything for her."

Fall down seven times, get up eight ... even if you need a little help from your friends. From the time he jumped into the shallow part of a lake and ended up partially paralyzed, Niskar, 36, has managed to adjust. Faced with a problem, the employee of Quicken Loans in Livonia just seems to roll with it.

"I'm still me," he said. "It's just everything I do is different."

Of course he remembers the day. It was Aug. 1, 1999. He was at Walnut Lake, soaking in the summer breeze, hanging out with friends. He noticed Allie swimming in the water near some boats. A bit worried, he jumped off the dock to get her.

He hit the lake bottom hard, heard a popping sound in his neck and blanked out.

He remembers waking up in the hospital. He remembers believing he would walk out of there in 72 hours. He remembers sitting at home, months later and realizing he wasn't getting any better.

"Unfortunately there was no one around me by the time I figured it out," he said. "There were nurses in the picture, physical therapy appointments, my family and friends ... but for the most part it was just me, trying to get back to work, trying to get my life together."

There were small victories: Like brushing his teeth, taking a shower or

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A NIGHT WITH ARTIE LANGE

Tickets are now on sale to see Artie Lange, 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway. All proceeds go toward helping Adam Niskar with his medical bills. Visit www.friendsforadam.com or call (248) 346-1438 to purchase tickets.


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