

“Within days of the accident, there was an outpouring of support. Everyone was asking what they could do, so we set up the Friends for Adam Niskar Trust and held a fundraiser, which raised over \$100,000,” Ross said.

One decade later, Ross still takes it upon himself to organize a yearly fundraiser to help his brother out with a portion of the enormous medical bills not covered by insurance.

“Adam lives independently, and there’s a lot of necessities that go above and beyond insurance coverage,” he said.

“He needs someone to come in and help him with personal things several times a week, so that’s about \$30,000 per year, plus the cost of modifying his vehicle, and the portion of the wheelchair that isn’t covered. It’s hard enough to make a living just for yourself these days, without an extra \$50,000 in medical expenses.”

In the past, Ross has held golf outings, wine tastings and bar nights, but this year’s event involves a little celebrity assistance from someone who knows the pain of seeing a loved one paralyzed.

Comedian Artie Lange, an actor and personality on the Howard Stern radio show, will perform Oct. 9 at the Detroit Opera House to benefit Adam’s trust fund. Southfield native and comedian Mike Young will open the show, and tickets go on sale July 31 for \$30-\$60.

Ross, who had learned Lange’s father was also paralyzed after listening to Lange on the Howard Stern broadcast and reading his book “Too Fat to Fish,” decided to take a chance and write to Lange about Adam’s cause. Several days later, he received a surprise — a call from Lange himself.

“I thought someone was playing a joke on me at first,” Ross said.

“He was really cool and very down-to-earth — it was like talking to one of my buddies. The common theme in his book is the love for his father, and how badly it hurt him when his father was injured, because he was his hero. The fact that he’s willing to donate and help Adam out is unbelievably nice.”

Adam, who is now engaged and expecting a baby with his fiancé in December, called his brother’s work “unbelievable.”

“He does this every year, and it takes him and all the people on his team a lot of time. It’s such a blessing that I have someone like Ross to support me,” he said.

“He’s my right-hand man, and he’s always taken care of me. For whatever I need, he’s always there.”

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666. Proceeds are non-tax-deductible. For more information about the event or the Friends for Adam Niskar Trust, visit www.friendsforadam.com.

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