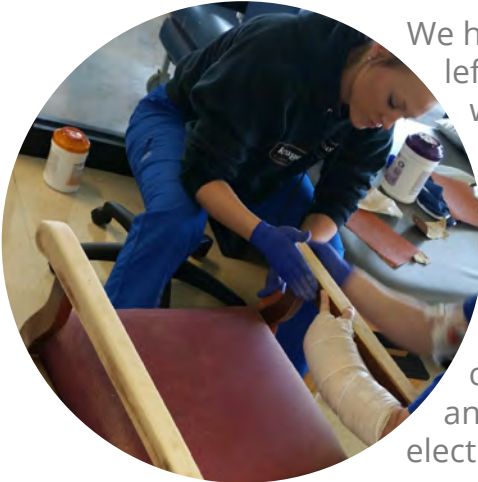


Excellence in Action

Turning Passions Into Therapy

A success story as told by Brenna Gentry,
COTA/L in England, AR



We had a high level resident with an old TBI and a recent injury that left him temporarily unable to use the right upper extremity. He was admitted with cellulitis to the anterior portion of his forearm, which resulted in an unstageable wound requiring a wound vac, IV antibiotics, and skin graft.

He wanted nothing to do with therapy upon arrival and was agitated about being there. After talking with him, we discovered that his prior occupation was sanding and repainting cars. I found an old chair in the gym that needed some updating, and with permission from our facility's administrator, brought an electric sander and stain in so the resident could redo it.

He loved the idea so much that he was waiting at the therapy doors every morning after breakfast! We were able to work on dynamic balance, functional reaching, strengthening, and activity tolerance in a fun and rewarding way. Once the chair was completed, he brought every department head by the gym so they could see his hard work. Following therapy, he returned home independently.

"He loved the idea so much that he was waiting at the therapy doors every morning after breakfast!"

Although his wound required additional surgeries, he was able to use his hand and wrist at time of discharge in order to assist himself with his daily tasks.

Stay tuned for next month's Excellence in Action Story from more of our teams in the field!