

WHEN MINUTES COUNT...

We're Nearby.

We are your only local trauma center and air ambulance service (First Flight) that's just minutes away when your life depends on it.



Susan Durkan, RN; Samuel Pellegrino, MD; Charles Bevan; Bill Campbell, RN; Curtis Spotts, First Flight pilot; David Rodriguez, paramedic

In April of 2006 **Charles Bevan** was driving his car in Vero Beach when he collided head-on with a dump truck. Seventeen years old at the time, Charles was transported to The Trauma Center at Holmes Regional Medical Center on board the First Flight air ambulance, where the trauma team, including trauma physicians and sub-specialists, as well as skilled clinicians and technicians, were awaiting his arrival. The horrific accident left him with a right frontal lobe injury, injured thoracic cavity, collapsed lung, as well as numerous fractured bones and internal injuries. After the emergency surgeries were completed, Charles began the road to healing while he remained in a coma in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit for a month. He remained in a coma for two more months after being moved to a rehabilitation facility. Charles, whose intelligence ranked in the genius category before the accident, has been re-training his brain for the past three years. Today Charles, who could not talk or identify colors three years ago, has made tremendous progress in recapturing 17 years of lost knowledge. He started his college studies in fall 2008 at Florida Atlantic University, and will transfer in August 2009 to Indian River State College where he plans to pursue a degree in Medical Technology. Charles and his family credit his mental and physical comeback to the amazing work of the trauma team.

"I was on track to become a doctor before my collision," said Charles. "My recent aptitude test shows I'm well suited to become a medical technologist. I'm just very thankful for the phenomenal care I received from the Health First trauma team. Going back to visit the doctors and nurses who cared for me immediately following the injury and during that next month has helped me heal. I tell them to keep doing what they do because it makes such a difference. I also like to share my story with other families who are facing a traumatic situation such as the one my family and I endured."