

# Hunt 2 Heal

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## OUR STORY

Hunt 2 Heal (H2H) is a West Michigan based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2019 to give people with physical disabilities an outdoor haven and experience designed just for them. We are creating hunting and outdoor fun for those that need it most. Our founder, Carson Nyenhuis, is the reason for Hunt 2 Heal. We aspire to provide his experience to others in similar circumstances and give that healing and renewal of life back to others.

## MISSION

Our mission is to provide a safe and comfortable environment where people with physical disabilities can experience the outdoors at no cost and no worries.

## THE EXPERIENCE

Guests will get to spend the weekend at the lodge hunting, socializing, sitting around the fire and enjoying the outdoors. Enjoy a beautiful barrier free lodge with living quarters and all the amenities needed to make any visitor feel welcome and secure. Specially designed hunting blinds with groomed trails and assistance from skilled guides will afford easy access and functionality for any type of wheelchair or adaptive equipment. This is a warm and comfortable place where we can introduce newcomers and experienced hunters alike to the enriching experiences found only in nature.

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### Carson Nyenhuis, Founder of H2H

I am a 32 year old outdoor enthusiast that has a love for nature, wildlife, and the sports that go with it.

In October 2016 I was in a bad motorcycle accident that left me paralyzed from the chest down, due to fractures of the T3 and T4 vertebrae of the thoracic spine. I also fractured the C1 and C2 in my neck and was lucky to not have any spinal cord damage there. I was very fortunate to still have my arms.

As you might have guessed, recovery from an accident like mine is quite a process, with a lot of ups and downs. Put simply, there just wasn't anything easy about it. Unfortunately, fractures to multiple bones in both hands further complicated the healing process – both physically and psychologically. I had to have alternating surgeries on my hands so it was a very difficult healing process. As a result, I did a lot of sitting around...a lot! All of this idle time and pain led to a lot of depressing days, and the mental challenges were becoming equally if not more difficult to overcome than were the physical barriers.

I would think every day about all the things I COULDN'T do, about the activities that I wouldn't be doing ever again. And I had enjoyed so many great experiences in my life up to that point; basically if it was something to do with the outdoors or wheels, I was in. There were sooo many things that I was going to "miss" out on. The depression appeared to be getting the best of me.

This was hard but I wasn't going to let it take over my life. I'm going to enjoy every last minute of the rest of my life and get back into my love for the outdoors and motorsports. Unlike many others in my position I am fortunate to have such a supportive group of friends and large family that really stepped up when I needed it the most. My brother got me back onto the lawn mower, riding three wheelers on the ice, boating, fishing, and anything I wanted to do, he's there for me! My friend Dave would throw me over his shoulders to carry me into the hunting blind. My close friends got me back to Colorado skiing the first year after my accident. I've also got into hand cycling, and many other things this past summer. I'm not a therapist or anything but - I tell you what – these activities are far more effective than any drugs or therapy.

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Above all, I discovered that getting back into the wilderness proved to be the most important benefit to my emotional and spiritual well-being. And this is how hunt2heal was born.



The front entrance into the 640 acres of wilderness

## The Story Behind Our Mission

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAedl18mpXc>

“Our focus at H2H is hunting, however it’s way more than just hunting for deer. For me, hunting is a spiritual, almost surreal experience. Sitting silently in a blind with the landscape slowly coming to life and the sounds and smells of nature surround you, and you find yourself becoming one with it. You become keenly aware of the surrounding environment. Then a deer comes walking in front of you and it’s so majestic, so intelligent and also tuned in with their surroundings. So cool, you forget about any disability you have.” ~ Carson Nyenhuis, Founder

## Upcoming Events

### Hunt 2 Heal Grand Opening Celebration

Thursday, August 19, 2021

7-9 PM

Hunt 2 Heal Lodge (2402 W. 15 Mile Rd.  
Bitely, MI 49309)



The lodge will be completed and we'll be gearing up for Fall Hunting season. We invite anyone to rsvp and join us to kick off our program. We'll have lodge and property tours, bonfire and entertainment, food and beverages and more. We encourage those coming to consider bringing something from our wish list to help stock the lodge up with essentials to make our guests most comfortable.

### Carson's Walk n' Roll Challenge

Sunday, September 19, 2021

2:30-5:30 PM

Millennium Park, Grand Rapids

Walk or roll (bike or wheelchair) or for the physically able, challenge yourself to spend the day in a wheelchair to experience what people with disabilities experience every day, all while raising funds to support the Hunt 2 Heal Program. This fun Rock n' Roll style event has something for everyone. We will have varying distances to walk or roll (bike or chair) and a fun obstacle course for our "wheelchair for a day" participants. Raise funds and awareness for Hunt 2 Heal at the same time. The event will include food and beverages, fundraising incentives/prizes, live entertainment and more. Registration is now open!





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## Contact Information

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