

2025 Healers Clint Bickham

Audio	Video
<p>[9-1-1 Operator] 9-1-1. What's your emergency?</p> <p>[Clint] Yes. I fell out of this tree stand on the river. I can't feel my legs. (Groan of pain.)</p> <p>[9-1-1 Operator] Just try to stay as calm and still as you can, okay?</p> <p>[Clint] Okay.</p>	<p>Shots of the river and woods at night from overhead slowly fades to black</p>
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>An Evening for Healers logo slowly fades in. Text: Celebrating Heroes, Healing, and Hope</p>
<p>[Clint] So I reached and kind of grabbed on this branch here, and then I was sliding my left leg down the side of the tree.</p>	<p>Man with short brown hair and full beard and mustache (Clint) seated in front of a black background Text: Clint Bickham Patient</p>
<p>And then this branch broke. And then that's when I fell. (Sound of wood cracking)</p>	<p>Dark woods. View shakes and tumbles to side. Fade to black</p>
<p>And I remember my feet landed next to my head right here, kind of compressing like this.</p>	<p>Clint on camera</p>
<p>I tried to stand up, obviously I couldn't stand up. My legs were in a different position than, I was like, my brain was telling me they was supposed to be.</p>	<p>Camera pans dark woods. There is a hunter in camouflage and bright orange vest lying on ground, struggling.</p>
<p>And uh, that's what I kind of knew there was a lot more wrong than just, you know, falling from the tree. And I felt like I was screaming the whole time in pain, and crying and because I knew something was pretty bad when I couldn't feel my legs.</p>	<p>Clint on camera shot cuts wider to reveal he's seated in a wheelchair.</p>

Audio	Video
<p>[Shelby] And normally when Clint is hunting and he calls me it's because he shot something,</p>	<p>Woman with blonde hair and light colored shirt with sleeves rolled up (Shelby) seated in front of a black background Text: Shelby Bickham Clint's wife</p>
<p>I could immediately tell that something was not right. He's panting and kind of hyperventilating, and all he said to me was, I can't feel my legs. And so I just kind of stopped and I just said, what? And he said, I can't feel my legs.</p>	<p>Hunter from before struggles to pick up his phone. He is alone in a thickly wooded area</p>
<p>[Clint] Am I going to make this out alive? I didn't know to the extent I could see behind me if I cut anything. If there were bleeding, bleeding, I could feel, you know, down there. So I was, you know, just hoping I'd be able to see, you know, my kids and my wife again.</p>	<p>Clint seated on camera, slow fade to black</p>
<p>[Foreboding music changes to more driving beat]</p>	
<p>[Bruce] We got a phone call from Shelby and she was very upset</p>	<p>Overhead view of river surrounded by woods at night</p>
<p>and she said, Clint has had an accident down on the river. And I said, I'll be down there in just a few minutes.</p>	<p>Older gentleman with gray hair and silver rectangular glasses wearing light polo shirt (Bruce) seated in front of a black background Text: Bruce Bickham Clint's Father</p>
<p>It's getting dark right then at that time. And so we knew we needed to get moving.</p>	<p>Overhead view of river with woods surrounding it at night</p>
<p>[Shelby] He informed me that he had reached out to a few of his buddies, dropped his pin, so they knew his location, and they were also coming.</p>	<p>Shelby on camera</p>
<p>[Bruce] The E.M.S. truck had arrived there. And they got to that particular area. But I don't think they knew specifically where he was. But thanks to his friends that were there, they told, the E.M.S.,</p>	<p>Shots of thick woods at night</p>

Audio	Video
come follow us. This is where we need to go	Bruce on camera
<p>to get to the edge of the bank to get to Clint.</p> <p>[Clint] And when the paramedics and my buddies got to me, they had to put me on a back brace. All six of them had to pick me up and walk me through that water, and then up the hill to the top of the location.</p>	Multiple sets of booted feet trudging through water. Shots of woods at night.
You know, at that time I was about probably 240 pounds. So to get me out of the woods and across that creek	Clint on camera
<p>and and up that hill is going to be everything we had.</p> <p>[Bruce] I could see Clint strapped in. He was certainly in pain at that time as he was coming up that hill. Clint never complains about pain,</p>	Camera moving slowing uphill through bushes with overhead shots of deep woods
but this time I knew. He was hurting bad.	Bruce on camera
<p>[Colby] And when I got there he was getting loaded in the ambulance. He was conscious and and his wife was trying to talk to him. And, I knew it wasn't good. It was a scary moment, it really was.</p>	<p>Man in dark button up shirt with shaggy dark hair and full beard and mustache (Colby) in front of black background</p> <p>Text: Colby Chandler Clint's Friend</p>
<p>[Shelby] And I get to him and I just kind of hold his face and I give him a kiss. And then we just kind of are just looking around at what comes next, because we didn't know.</p>	Shelby on camera
They had just gotten him out of the woods and from what I heard, was very traumatic. He screamed the whole time because he was just in so much pain. He did not look like himself.	Dark, foreboding woods with river running through
You know, he's six two, he's strong, he can do anything. And he looked scared. For the first time in his life, I saw him scared and that scared me. But at that point we were in survival mode and we were just trying to figure out what we needed to do.	Shelby on camera

Audio	Video
<p>[Clint] I'm really glad that she was there and was able to, you know, you know, be there potentially, if that were our last time, be able to, you know, be together.</p>	Clint on camera
<p>[Music changes to dramatic, less rhythmic piece]</p>	Dark woods with dirt road slowly fades to black.
<p>[Shelby] They did give us the option to put him on the ambulance or use the helicopter.</p>	Fade in on helicopter landing at night.
<p>I asked her, I said, well, how long would it take you to get him with the ambulance? And she said, 45 minutes to an hour. I said, how long would it take you with the helicopter? She said, ten minutes. And then I was just like, well, that's what we're going to do,</p>	
<p>because we did know it was a back injury. We just didn't know the extent of it at that point, and we really didn't want him going on gravel and bumpy roads and over all of that. We wanted him as stable as possible.</p>	Air Med helicopter's blades spinning up in preparation for take off
<p>[Music] [Shelby] And it just felt surreal.</p>	Helicopter flying through the night
<p>You never want to see one of your loved ones, especially your best friend, be taken off in a helicopter. And that is the first</p>	From inside the helicopter as it approaches the landing pad on top of hospital. Cut to helicopter landing.
<p>thing that kind of registered with me, that this is really serious.</p>	Shelby on camera
<p>[Dr. Sin] I just happened to be on call that night when Mr. Bickham came in following his trauma.</p>	<p>Doctor in white coat with round glasses (Dr. Sin) seated in front of a black background. Text: Anthony Sin, MD Professor and Vice-Chair of Neurosurgery Director of Complex Spinal Disorders</p>
<p>And as usual, I got notified by my residents about, what's been happening with him, and that was the first time that I became aware of him.</p>	Patient on gurney being rolled from a helicopter on the roof of the hospital toward the entry door

Audio	Video
<p>He was having difficulty moving his legs and had a lot of pain, and subsequently underwent a lot of imaging studies that showed some problem with his spine.</p>	<p>Patient being rolled into the emergency department trauma bay. Team works to setup equipment and examine patient</p>
<p>[Clint] We were sitting in a room kind of waiting on the doctor's decision. Shelby and my dad were sitting in the room with me. They come in and say, hey, we're going to do emergency surgery now.</p>	<p>Exterior of Ochner LSU Health Shreveport at night. Hospital is lit only by lights from signs and windows. Emergency room signage glows through the darkness</p>
<p>We were sitting in a room kind of waiting on the doctor's decision. Shelby and my dad were sitting in the room with me. They come in and say, hey, we're going to do emergency surgery now. They wheeled me back in there, kind of get me prepped up in the room. I just remember going to sleep and then waking up in I C U.</p>	<p>Shots of operating room being prepped. Instruments being places, surgeons putting on gloves</p>
<p>[Dr. Sin] He essentially sustained an incomplete spinal cord injury from a burst fracture of his T-12 vertebral body,</p>	<p>Image from scan of Clint's back. Burst disk is highlighted</p>
<p>which resulted in a lot of compression on his spinal cord and subsequently resulted in, a spinal cord injury that was causing weakness of his legs. Based on all the imaging studies and the history, we felt that his injury was</p>	<p>Doctors and nurses in operating room working on a patient</p>
<p>unstable and probably needed some type of a surgical fixation.</p>	<p>Dr. Sin on camera</p>
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>Graphic text: LSU Health Shreveport has one of the largest neurosurgical residency programs in the southeastern United States.</p>
<p>[Dr. Sin] There are these metal screws we put into the bone part of the spine, and we connect them to these metal rods to stabilize them.</p>	<p>Images from scan of Clint's back showing the screws and plates in place</p>

Audio	Video
<p>He had severe compression of his spine cord. So we removed some of his bone as well to create more space for his spinal cord that was injured.</p> <p>[Bruce] We were just always hoping for the best. When you have a surgery, you're thinking, that's great that we can get that done. Now the work's going to begin from this point on.</p>	<p>Various shots of surgeons working in operating room</p>
<p>[Clint] The days in I C U, my right leg, I could kind of twitch it a little bit here and there. But my left leg, I still couldn't move it at all. I could kind of feel, once you got below my knees, that's when it started feeling distant on touch. And then I couldn't feel anything below my ankles on either leg.</p>	<p>Shots of patient in I C U bed</p>
<p>That's when I kind of knew everything's changed now.</p>	<p>Clint on camera</p>
<p>[Bruce] We would be outside the door there in the waiting area. There were a lot of people there that came by</p>	<p>Bruce on camera</p>
<p>to check on Clint. As we talked with him, he was still uncomfortable, but they were doing everything they could to help him with the pain and they basically looked at us and said, we're starting rehab tomorrow.</p>	<p>Patient in I C U bed with nurses outside in hall and working in the room</p>
<p>[Clint] We started doing physical therapy and occupational therapy there in I C U.</p>	<p>Therapists help Clint sit up with legs over the side of the bed</p>
<p>[Bruce] Having a good friends is, you know, one of the most important things you have. Clint's the type that if they need anything, he's going to be there for them. And the same with them, that they're going to do everything they can for him.</p>	<p>Bruce on camera visibly trying to hold back tears</p>

Audio	Video
<p>And throughout the process, they would look at Clint - anything you need. You let us know. We'll take care of it. The house, the kids, let us know.</p> <p>[Clint] My goal was if I could walk out out of I C U I'd try to. But wanting to have as much of my life</p>	<p>Clint and therapists working on exercises and movement in hospital bed</p>
<p>back before the injury, being able to be there for my kids and my wife and, you know, being able to coach kids growing up, you know, they're about to be three, about to be five. They got their whole lives ahead of them.</p>	<p>Photo montage of Clint and his family smiling and doing activities</p>
<p>[Clint] You know, I want to be able to be a part of their lives. You know, fully that ... my parents were to me and kinda and give them that same type of childhood that I had.</p>	<p>Clint on camera visibly holding back tears</p>
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>Graphic text: After six days in I C U at Ochsner LSU Health, Clint was transferred to a rehab facility in Dallas.</p>
<p>[Unknown] And he's straight up and down. I'm telling you.</p> <p>[Dr. Sin] With this type of injury, it's a long term recovery. We usually work on getting these patients into a rehab setting.</p> <p>[Shelby] We transported him with an ambulance to Baylor that Saturday. After he fell. He would do three hours of therapy every single day.</p>	<p>Multiple phone videos of Clint in therapy, doing different exercises, learning to walk again</p>
<p>He got home on Christmas Eve. The kids are very, very excited, and he's just in his home and not able to do the things he wants to do. And for about a week and a half, it was probably</p>	<p>Photo montage of Clint & Shelby with the children and The children in front of a 'welcome home daddy' sign</p>

Audio	Video
<p>one of the hardest times that we've ever gone through in our marriage. Not for anything that he was doing wrong or I was doing wrong. It was just doing everything that had been done for him over the last two months, and also being a mom and a wife and him trying to figure out how he can be a dad and a husband and himself, on top of all the medical things that he was having to do and I was having to do.</p>	<p>Shelby on camera</p>
<p>[Music – now piano driven]</p>	<p>Graphic text: After returning home, Clint began outpatient rehab at the Rehabilitation Clinic at LSU Health Shreveport</p>
<p>[Bruce] Every session we go to,</p>	<p>Exterior of School of Health Professions and Sciences building</p>
<p>here has always been improvement. Every single time I would drive him there to the facility.</p>	<p>Clint on Vector system working on balance</p>
<p>[Kara] Feel pretty stable?</p>	<p>Therapist talking with Clint</p>
<p>[Julie] We had to push him where his systems are being overwhelmed, and he had to have that leap of faith to say, like, I know I'm going to push to failure. And I'm like, that's exactly what we want. That's going to push your sensory systems to get better, to get your balance stronger.</p>	<p>Woman with long curly hair and dark circular glasses in a flowery shirt (Julie) in front of a black background Text: Julie Schwertferger, P.H.D., D.P.T., M.B.A., C.B.I.S.T Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy</p>

Audio	Video
<p>You got this. And the family was very, very much involved right from the beginning. And I remember Shelby letting me know that as much as possible, they wanted his therapy to be started and be aggressive. And if he could come every day, if he can come twice a day with whatever we could get him in, she would be grateful for. Big step. What we've done over time is repeatedly assess for what's coming back.</p> <p>He's gotten some more sensory return, a little bit lower, and he's gotten a lot more muscle strength. You always focus on function doing transfers, doing things where he had to use his legs, whether or not he needed his hands to help, doing a lot of things in weight bearing and pre gait.</p>	<p>Shots of Clint using hand crutches to rise from a chair and walk around a track and various shots Clint of working on balance while catching balls being tossed to him</p>
<p>[Kara] When he came to see us, he could not walk, he couldn't drive, he could not stand to make a meal. He couldn't work, he couldn't do any of the things that he was doing prior, mainly from the not being able to ambulate.</p>	<p>Young woman with blonde hair wearing a dark long sleeve shirt (Kara) in front of a black background Text: Kara Roan, O.T.A. Occupational Therapy Assistant</p>
<p>I think that's what stood out the most to me was his mentality about rehab. He was so resilient during the whole process. If I asked him to do something, he usually would give me a little side eye or crazy face, but he was going to do it and he's going to give 120%. That was all he's focused on, and he was going to be better. When I started first working with him, he couldn't</p>	<p>Montage of Clint using the Vector system to practice climbing on a ladder</p>
<p>drive. He couldn't stand up by himself. He couldn't dress himself. He couldn't take care of all of the daily self-care things that he needed to take care of.</p>	<p>Montage of Clint practicing on a driving simulator</p>
<p>And now he's independent. He's able to do everything pretty much, maybe with a modification, but he's able to do it.</p>	<p>Photo montage of Clint with his family, fishing and hunting with friends</p>
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>Phone video of Clint climbing a rock wall using a hand pulley system</p>

Audio	Video
<p>[Shelby] His dad would take him every single Monday, Wednesday, Friday, stay with him, send us videos. They spent way too much time together. They argued a lot. And then on the breaks and when I could, I would take him.</p>	<p>Shelby on camera</p>
<p>And then most recently he is driving, which has been very wonderful for not only for us but for him because he has his independence back.</p>	<p>Clint in car, kissing Shelby goodbye with montage of Clint driving his truck</p>
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>Graphic text: The Bioness Vector Gait and Safety System and the STISIM Drive Simulator were critical components of Clint's Rehab.</p> <p>Graphic text: Both were available thanks to donors.</p>
<p>[Dr. Sin] When you get involved with such a good story like this, you know it makes you feel good about yourself.</p>	<p>Clint in wheelchair, sitting outside as son hits a baseball from a tee with Shelby and their daughter in the yard</p>
<p>It makes you feel good about what you do and what you have gone through, and kind of things that you could do for other people that's out there.</p>	<p>Clint at table with a hunting bow talking to his son</p>
<p>You know, it's one of those catalysts that keeps you going for the future as well. So, you know, it's always good to be around this kind of story. Obviously.</p>	<p>Dr. Sin on camera</p>
<p>[Kara] I don't think he's going to have any limits. Whatever he wants to do, whatever he puts his mind to, I think he can he can do it.</p>	<p>Kara on camera</p>
<p>[Bruce] I'm so thankful for every one of them and the care that they've given our entire family the entire time.</p>	<p>Exterior shots of Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport hospital and LSU Health Shreveport campus</p>
<p>I couldn't have asked for better care.</p>	<p>Bruce on camera</p>
<p>[Shelby] Thank you. We had to navigate something that we didn't know how to navigate, and they helped us. And he's stronger because of it. And they didn't just help him. But like for my kids,</p>	<p>Shelby on camera visibly holding back tears</p>

Audio	Video
because they're so young. And for me to have my husband back. This is all new. And they helped us.	Montage of Shelby and Clint with the children watching TV in the family room at home
Get him back.	Shelby on camera
[Clint] Thank you. I wouldn't be here without you. I mean, there's I wouldn't be able to play with my kids, wouldn't be able to go to work and	Clint on camera holding back tears
spend time with my family and enjoy life again. I wouldn't I wouldn't be here without you.	Kids sitting in Clint's lap in his living room as he smiles.