

# Disease is fairly rare among those with healthy immune systems

**From pg. 4**  
has also strongly influenced his outlook on life.

I'm thankful to be alive. The fact that I lived to talk about this— that's what gets me though each day," he said. "Your whole perspective on things change. Just being able to sit outside and listen to the birds and planes flying by is amazing. Losing my leg wasn't the significant issue; being alive is. I can still see my friends, family and animals, and that's what I'm grateful for."

He went on to express his appreciation for everyone who has supported his through this trying journey, including neighbours, friends, family and even hospital staff in Georgetown, Oakville and Toronto.

Now, Hickey and Hammond are working to overcome their next challenge: the financial burden stemmed from the need for home renovations and special equipment that will help Hickey function.

The situation has been made even harder due to a lack of household income, since Hammond was also off work for an extended period of time for knee replacement surgery.

Enter Davida Tkach, another one of Hickey's friends, who has started an online fundraiser to help offset the costs the duo is facing.

The crowdfunding initiative is aiming to raise \$10,000, and at press time \$4,650 had already been donated. The fundraiser page can be found at [www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/ken-hickey-get-well-soon/320062](http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/ken-hickey-get-well-soon/320062).

While necrotizing fasciitis is extremely rare, and the chances of a person with a strong immune system contracting it are very low, Hickey is encouraging everyone to vigilant when it comes to looking after their bodies and health.

He's also hoping to change people's perception when it comes to amputees or those with disabilities.

"People need to understand that we're just normal. Don't be afraid or run away," he said. "Some people are helpful and some people just stare at you. The ones who are the most curious are kids, and that doesn't bother me. If they or anybody else wants to learn more I'm happy to talk to them."

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