

# CAVU in the Community

## Enabling positive change!

Our commitment is to direct **10% of gross revenue** from the CAVU Money Market share classes and CAVU Capital Markets Division to organizations making a difference for minority and veteran communities.

CAVU will provide an Annual Report detailing: gross revenue earned from the share classes, total amount pledged, and total paid. Investors who choose to be part of the difference will now be able to do so with the transparency they seek.

## Success Story: Ellie Depaula and Stay In Step



**Ellie Depaula, CEO,**  
@queencosmeticsstore

*“(Stay In Step) actually believes in you. Hospitals I’ve been to ... say that I’m not going to get better and that’s just it, and I have to accept it; but here they actually will work with me, and I can notice the improvements over time, this type of injury is not something that you see results right away. Here they actually work with you, and you know they believe in you.”*

-Ellie Depaula

**E**llie Depaula worked as a paralegal on personal injury cases and was going to business school. She had what many people call a normal life.

In 2020, she was a passenger in a car, heading to a meeting with a friend. The friend looked down at his GPS and accidentally cut off another driver. The other driver was consumed with road rage and followed Ellie and her friend until they parked. There was an altercation. As Ellie and her friend drove away, the other driver pulled a gun and started shooting. A bullet passed through the trunk, striking Ellie in the back.

In that moment, she felt pressure but wasn’t in pain yet. She didn’t notice that she couldn’t feel her legs. It felt like she was floating. After getting to the hospital, she remained there for four hours before being transported by life flight to a trauma center. The doctors gave her the news that she had a T12 complete spinal cord injury. She was in hospital for a week and in in-patient rehab for a month.

In the rehab center, Ellie learned how to live life as a paraplegic. After discharge, she only received physical therapy three times a week for 45 minutes per session. She couldn’t walk without full braces.

At **Stay In Step**, Ellie has learned to walk with only knee braces and can feel her quads getting stronger. She says the slow recovery process is one of the hardest parts of her life.

To help pay for therapy, Ellie started her own business, @queencosmeticsstore. She had been in business school before the accident but dropped out because recovery was so mentally and physically draining. When Ellie was in the hospital, a roommate noticed Ellie applying makeup and asked Ellie to do her makeup ahead of a family visit. Ellie’s roommate loved it and asked her to do it again and again. From there, Ellie decided she was going to start a makeup brand.

Her dad gave her a \$200 loan and that initial investment has grown into a company that sells lip glosses and recently signed a contract to manufacture a product. Ellie plans to expand her company’s product line to include foundation, concealer, new products, and things that haven’t been invented yet.

*CAVU Securities proudly supports our nonprofit partner, Stay In Step, in its efforts to help individuals with brain and spinal cord injuries. Stay in Step provides long term physical rehabilitation and therapy to people living with neurological disorders resulting in paralysis.*