

2011 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew featuring a VMI Northstar Conversion. 10 in. lowered floor, auto. kneel, in-floor ramp, and side door. Removable driver and front passenger seats. 4 pt. tie downs and lap belts with multi mounting plates. 33 miles. Call for a demo today! 800-420-6470 OCT V16



2009 Toyota Sienna LE with a Vision Manual Rear Entry Conversion. Full length lowered floor. 4 pt. tie down mounting strips, tie downs, lap and shoulder belts. Only 49K Mi. Easy loading and parking access wherever you travel in this vehicle. 800-420-6470 OCT V15



2007 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT. Braun Entervan conversion, remote entry, 10 in. lowered floor, power kneel, door, ramp. Removable driver and passenger seat. 4 way restraint system. 800-420-6470. OCT V14

2006 Dodge Grand Caravan SE. Braun Entervan conversion with 10" lowered floor, power kneel, door, side ramp. Remote entry. Removable driver and front passenger seats. 4 pt restraint system. 37K Mi. 540-932-7300 oct v13



2005 Dodge Grand Caravan with Braun Rampvan Conversion, 10in lowered floor, power kneel, ramp, and door. Removable driver & front passenger seats. Multiple mounting plates and retractable tie downs. Fully automatic chassis. 540-932-7300 OCT V12



2006 Chevrolet Uplander LS. with Vision's Manual Rear Entry Ramp Conversion. 37 K Mi. Remounted 2end row seats, fold and flip back bench seats. 4 pt tie down mounting strips, tie downs, lap and shoulder belts. 540-932-7300. OCT V18



2003 Chrysler Town & Country LXI-VMI Northstar conversion: 10" lowered floor, power kneel, door, in-floor ramp. Multi-trac tie down attachment strips, Q-straints and lap/shoulder belts. Removable driver/passenger seats. Remote entry. 800-420-6470 OCT V11



2002 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport. With Braun Entervan II Conversion, 8 in lowered floor, Power kneel/door/ramp with hand held remote operation. Removable driver and front passenger seats. Multiple mounting strips, tie downs, and lap belts. 800-420-6470 OCT V10

2001 Chrysler Town & Country Lxi. Braun Entervan II
Conversion, 8" lowered floor, remote entry, power kneel, door, and ramp. Removable driver & front passenger seats.

800-420-6470 OCT V9



2000 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport. Braun Entervan conversion. Lowered floor, power sliding door, power kneel & power ramp. 800-420-6470 OCT V8



1995 Dodge Grand Caravan with Braun Entervan Side Entry Conversion. 10" lowered floor, removable driver & front passenger seats. Automatic sliding side door, ramp, kneel. External key switch entry. 4 way wheelchair restraints and lap belts. 540-932-7300 OCT V7

2000 Dodge
Grand Caravan. Braun
Entervan Conversion.
Lowered floor,
power sliding door, power
kneel & power ramp.
800-420-6470

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to bring people with disabilities and the elderly complete access to new and pre-owned adaptive equipment, services, resources and events throughout Virginia and West Virginia

About The Founders:

Rob Smith, has been a quadriplegic since 1980 as a result of a diving accident. Robert served eight years in the armed forces and retired as an E-6 Staff Sergeant.

Stella Smith, an RN, has been APRried to Robert since 1991. She brings her five years experience in Spinal Cord injury to Disabled Dealer Magazine. Since the V.A. she has worked as a Community Health Nurse with the Governors Healthy Start Program. She now dedicates 100% of her time to Disabled Dealer.

Oliver O'Riordan, serves the Disabled Dealer organization in a number of ways. His mainstay is overseeing general management duties for DDM Graphics. He also assists Disabled Dealer Enterprises, Inc. in the sales and Graphics sector of the initial training process. "Our mission is to bring people with disabilities and the elderly complete access to new and preowned adaptive equipment, services, resources, and events throughout the country.'

> Editor: Dena Sims Page One Printing PRINTING: MAILING COMPANY: Page One Printing GRAPHICS BY: **DDM Graphics** - Keith Russell PHONE: 800-420-6470 FAX: 540-941-3517

ADDRESS: 2075 W. Main St Wavnesboro, VA 22980 EMAIL ddmofva@ntelos.net

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Publisher's Note

Welcome to the October 2012 issue of Disabled Dealer Magazine, and welcome fall. The fall season is by far my favorite time of year here in the Shenandoah Valley. All of the fall colors are just beautiful, and I am always ready for the cooler weather.

Believe it or not, before the next issue of DDM, we will have elected a new President! Remember to vote on November 6th. Happy fall everyone!



About the Cover

As many as one in five American soldiers are coming home from war zones with profound physical afflictions and traumatic brain injuries, many of which require 24-hour attention. Above and beyond debilitating physical injuries, a great number of American veterans will suffer from emotional disabilities that they will bear for the rest of their lives. Saint Francis Service Dogs can help. We provide free, professionally trained service dogs to assist wounded soldiers who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces. A Saint Francis Service Dog can contribute to physical and occupational therapy and offer 24-hour emotional support and companionship to a wounded soldier.

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Disabled Dealer

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2012 Viewpoint Rear Entry Handicap Accessible Mini Vans! Auto. kneel, rear hatch, ramp and tie downs. Several to choose from. (File photo) Call 1-800-420-6470 ask for Richard. OCT V21



2012 Honda from VMI-Side Entry Conversion. (File photo) Call 1-800-420-6470 for complete details. OCT V42



2007 Ford E250 Nor-Cal/Tuscany Conversion. Raised roof, 9in cut drop floor, 56.5in door ht. Braun UVL Lift, Power door opener w/ remote, dual battery. Magnetic outside switches. Quick release seat bases driver/passenger. EZ Lock driver's position. EMC Driver Controls. Call Richard Baldwin. 800-420-6470 OCT V6



2001 Ford E 150 with a Braun Vangater II Lift. 6" lowered floor, Automatic doors with dash mounted, exterior magnetic, and hand held remote entry. EZ out passenger seat. 4 pt. tie downs and lap belts. Call 1-800-420-6470 for details. OCT V_5

Mobile MAdvisor

Need answers to your mobility questions??
Want to know the latest in Assistive

Technology? Would you like to learn money saving tips on how to purchase your next van, scooter or lift? Get these answers and more from "The Mobile Lifestyle Advisor" brought to you by Disabled Dealer of Virginia and West Virginia. This monthly column might make you roll with laughter, cringe with fear, or jump for joy, but it guarantees to produce solutions that you can take to the bank. So "Let's Get Rolling".

Q. Hello Richard, I am having a problem with my van. None of the switches on my van want to work; I have a 2003 van with low miles, and a Ricon lift. The outside toggle switches worked to let the lift down, then the switch on lift would not work and the inside control would not work, finally after much trying, the outside toggles worked to put the lift back in the van. I wonder what is wrong. I have made an appointment at a mobility dealer for next Thursday.

A. Let's look at the easy things first: Check the door open switch if your lift has one on it. If the brain is not seeing the door all the way open then it will not let the lift function. Next easiest place to look is the connection plug from the rear switches to the main brain of the lift. These have a tendency to come loose. You can also check the continuity of each of the rear switch wires. These units are subjected to some outside corrosion and could cause a cross communication problem with the brain box of the lift. Good to see that you have scheduled an appointment with a mobility dealer versus your local mechanic. He can probably diagnose the problem much quicker and save you money on the repair. Thanks for asking.

Q. I have a motor home that my wife and I travel in frequently. We tow a car behind it now. My wife needs to use a scooter for long walks during our trips and I am trying to find a small vehicle that will hold a lift and scooter in the back. It must be towable. I am looking at some of the smaller SUV's. Do you have a suggestion? Myers T.-VA.

A. Let's first look at what type of scooter you have and what size of SUV you would need to carry the scooter and lift. Without the exact measurements (go to Bruno.com their web page has a format to help you decide which vehicles will work for your type of scooter) I will say that you will need a regular SUV in order to get the proper opening height to accept a scooter lift. You will also find that the seat may have to be removed from the scooter in

order for it to clear the opening. This means that your wife may not have the ability to load and unload the scooter by herself; it all depends on her mobility. If you both travel together all the time then it will work. After deciding which SUV will work with a lift, you will need to find out which of these units can be towed easily. To my knowledge, and I would always check with a dealer for proper and safe towing of any vehicle, Jeep makes a SUV that may be a good fit. Interestingly, the new MV-1 is a rear wheel drive unit which would allow towing and it has a built in ramp allowing you to easily load the scooter. A great solution but the cost (\$41,000.00) may be a bit steep.

Q. I am in the market for a bariatric bed. With no insurance to cover the expense I will have to pay out of pocket. These units run upwards to \$5,000.00 and higher. Do you know of any resources I can tap into to purchase a new or used bed? Fred K.-Va.

A. Fred turn to the resource page in this issue of the magazine and first look for the FREE organization. They now have locations throughout Virginia and their main goal is to provide equipment like beds to those in need and yes it is free! I would also direct you to the Virginia AT reuse site, www.passitoncenter.org. It is designed to do just what you are asking, get pre-owned DME equipment into the hands of individuals that can use it. For you readers that HAVE DME equipment and want to donate it, both of these organizations will gladly accept donations. You may also want to contact your local Independent Living Center as they may have a list of equipment that is available locally.

It is that time of year when old man winter knocks on our door. Don't let him knock your van out of service. I highly recommend a complete cold weather service check up on your ENTIRE van, not just the mobility equipment. Belts, batteries, lubrication points and even windshield washer fluid are all subject to cold weather breakdown, especially if they have not been changed in sometime. Don't delay, it could mean a costly tow bill or more. Call Rick at 1-800-906-6487 to schedule an appointment today. *Tell him the Mobile Lifestyle Advisor sent you and you will receive 10% off your total bill on your next visit. This offer is good thru November.*

Keep those questions coming in and keep those wheels rolling on! Send your questions and comments and receive a "free gift" from "The Mobile Lifestyle Advisor", c/o Richard Baldwin, 2075 W. Main St. Waynesboro Va., email to mobility@ntelos.ne or call toll free to 1-800-420-6470.

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2003 Dodge Grand Caravan w/ Braun Entervan Mobility Package-Power Door, Ramp, Kneel System, Driver & Passenger Removable Seats. Remote keyless Entry, 4-Point Tie-Downs w/Lap & Shoulder Harness Mileage: 93,500 Price Reduced \$ 21,900. Call Carrie for a Demo 800-657-5438 or carrie@iLifestyles. net OCT V35



2012 Honda Odyssey EX-L / Braun Entervan *Leather* Bluetooth*Back-up Camera*Power Moonroof. Call Carrie @ 800-657-5438. Go to www.iLifestyles. net and fill out credit application. OCT V36



2012 Chrysler T & C Touring / Braun Entervan Leather Seats*DVD*Sirus XM Radio FREE for 1-year* *Back-up Camera*5-Year/100,000 Mile Powertrain Warranty* Ask about Manufacture Rebates Call Scott Weeks, 800-657-5438 Ask Scott about 10-year financing Scott@iLifestyles.net OCT V37



2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SE / Braun Entervan XT. *14" Lowered Floor* Power ramp & Kneel System**Custom Ground effects and side steps*Call Carrie at 800-657-5438 OCT V38

NEW! 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SE / VMI Northstar with infloor ramp Call Scott 800-657-5438 or email: scott@iLifestyles.net Ask about rebates! \$ 2000 and up! OCT V39



2012 Honda Odyssey EX-L VMI Northstar Infloor Ramp and Sure-Deploy * Leather *Bluetooth*Moonroof *Back-up Camera *Navigation *Rubber Floor *Custom Ground Effects *Keyless Entry *Up to 10 year financing! w/10% Down + Title, tax and tags. Call Scott Weeks 800-657-5438 for your demo, ask for a credit application. OCT V40

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Looking for supportive conversation and information about living with Cushing's Disease. 540-674-3972 OCT M8



Preowned Lifts in Stock. Prices starting at \$150. Call 1-800-420-6470, ask for Tom. OCT M7



Preowned Lifts. Save \$100's off retail price. Outside, Trunk, and Truck Lifts. Call 1-800-420-6470. Ask for Tom. OCT M6



M.I.T.S. of Virginia installs and SERVICES straight & custom curved stairlifts. Call Tom for more information. New and Used units starting at \$1,500. 1-800-420-6470. OCT M5



Porch Lifts are designed to move physically challenged individuals from ground level to the main floor. Many styles to choose from. 800-420-6470 OCT M4



NEW EZ HAULER TRANSPORT SYSTEM AT MITS OF VA! Self storing 6 1/4" wide aluminum ramps. Permanent front stops, Comes with it's own 2 wheel storage cart. 350# load capacity. Quickly installs on any vehicle with a 2" receiver hitch. Adjust to any width scooter or chair. SPECIAL SALE PRICE \$795. 1-800-420-6470 Ask for Richard. OCT M3

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1998 Ford E 150 Eclipse Shadow Conversion. Ricon Clearway Lift with 6" lowered floor and a raised roof for 54" door clearance. 40K Mi. Ask about a warranty on this vehicle. 800-420-6470 OCT V4



1997 Chevrolet 1500 E-Z Ride full size conversion van with a Braun Vangater I side entry lift. Raised roof, Captain's chairs driver, front passenger, and 1 mid ship. Rear electric sofa bed. Barn door entry. Only 55 K Miles. Well maintained! 800-420-6470 OCT V17



1997 Ford E 150. Braun Vangater I Lift, Q-Straint Retractable Tie Downs, Raised Roof. TV, Power Sofa Bed, All Power features. 75K Mi. 800-420-6470. OCT V3



1998 Dodge Ram with a Braun Millennium L950SE. Raised Roof, Raised Doors, 56" Door Clearance, Power Side Door, Remote Entry. Front and rear air conditioning/heat. 5.2L V-8. Call 1-800-420-6470 for more details. OCT V2



1990 Chevrolet 20 with a Ricon Clearway Lift and Raised Roof. 5.7L V-8. Call 540-932-7636. OCT V1

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M.I.T.S. OF VIRGINIA
1-800-420-6470. OCT V20

The following calendar of events, support groups, and re- Roanoke, Virginia 24012 sources is provided free as a service to our readers. Disabled Dealer of Virginia & W. Virginia cannot guarantee the accuracy of all information given. Please be sure to verify dates and locations with the contact or organization listed. You can have your event included in the section by mailing, faxing, e-mail, or calling in the information at least 6-8 weeks before the event if possible. Our address, phone/fax numbers and e-mail address is located on page 3

VIRGINIA RESOURCES

Waynesboro Disability Services Board

540-942-6718 For information on housing and disability services in Waynesboro, VA. Spirit Roller Ministries www.spiritrollerministries.org

Virginia's Military Home Modification Grant Program

Grant program that pays for modifications to make living spaces more accessible for servicemen or women who sustained injury during service in a combat theatre of operations. www.vhda.com

Search keywords: Granting Freedom Program 877-VHDA-123

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) works to reduce the communication barriers between persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who are hearing, including family members, service providers, and the general public. 804-662-9502 (V/TTY)

800-552-7917 (V/TTY) Email: ddhhinfo@ddhh.state.va.us

Website: http://www.vddhh.org

Virginia 2-1-1 Get Connected. **Get Answers**

Dial 2-1-1 / www.211virginia.org

When you dial 211 a trained professional will listen to your situation & suggest sources of help using one of the largest databases of health & human services in Virginia.

Access Chesterfield-Transportation

7321 Whitepine Road Richmond, VA 23237 804-279-8489

Senior Navigator

www.seniornavigator.org Equipment Recycling Resource.

AARP Virginia State Office

707 East Main Street, Suite 910 Richmond, VA 23219

Phone: (804) 819-1902 Fax: (804) 819-1923 TTY: (877) 434-7598

Web Site: http://www.aarp.org/statepages/va.html

Alzheimer's Association:

Northern Virginia Chapter

10201 Lee Hwy. Suite 210 Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 359-4440

Central VA/Lynchburg Chapter

P O Box 823 Lynchburg, VA 24506 (804) 845-8540

Charlottesville/Piedmont Chapter

PO Box 4634 Charlottesville, VA 22906 (804) 973-6122

Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority 1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 107

Richmond Va 23229 866-835-5976

www.atlfa.org

As of July 1, 2012 the NewWell Fund reverted to their original name of, Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA). Their contact information will remain the same. Same great Staff doing the same Great job! "Providing help for a better tomorrow" for Virginians with disabilities!

Blue Ridge Independent

Living Center Main Office 1502 B Williamson Road, N.E.

540-342-1231

Brain Injury Support Group-Greater Shenandoah Valley Support Group. Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 221 of Rockingham Memorial Hospital.

Call Pat Wilkins (daytime) at (540) 879-2833.

Brain Injury Association

1608 Spring Hill Road Ste. 110

Vienna, VA 22182 703-761-0750 Toll Free: 1-800-444-6443 www.biausa.org

Brain Injury Association of Virginia

3212 Cutshaw Ave Suite 315 Richmond, VA 23230 804-355-5748/800-334-8443 Web site: www.biav.net

Brain Injury Association of

Staunton-Augusta Support Group Second Monday of each month. 7:00 pm William A. Cashatt Chapel Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center On Hornet Drive near Parking Lot F

Goodwill of Central Virginia

Medical Adaptive/Assistive Technology Program

8:30 am - 4:00 pm 6301 Midlothian Trnp. Richmond, VA 23225 804-521-4923 www.goodwillcva.org

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Lions Club-Special Needs Equipment

State Chairman-Mike Nicolos 3906 Melvern Place Alexandria, VA 22312-1149

E-mail: lionmikecoordinator@mymailstation.com 703-941-6575

Valley Associates For Independent Living, Inc.

1791-A South High St.. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-433-6513 Fax: 540-433-6313

Valley Associates For Independent Living, VAIL, serves planning district 6. VAIL provides an array of services to individuals who have a disability including but not limited to supported employment, independent living skills training advocacy, and information and referral. Call 540-433-6513 for more information.

Paralyzed Vetrans of America Virginia-Mid Atlantic Chapter

11620 Busy Street Richmond VA 23236

800-852-7639 • 804-378-0017 Fax: 804-378-0026

Resources for Independent Living Inc.

The Resources for Independent Living Inc., serves persons with physical and sensory disabilities to live independently in the community and to encourage necessary change within the community so independent living is a possibility. A community based nonprofit and nonresidential agency serving persons in Chesterfield providing case management, peer counseling, housing placement services and technical assistance. Also, provides advocacy for personal and collective rights of persons who are disabled in the areas of accessibility, education, employment, transportation and other areas of equal opportunity. Please call 804-353-6503 for further

Spotsylvania County Public Schools Parent Resource Center

7409 Brock Road Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553 (540) 582-3616 (540) 582-3791

High Hopes Stroke Survivors Support Group of Lynchburg

Lynchburg General Hospital, Private Dinning Room

2end Thursday of ea. mo. 1-3 pm Contact: Carole McCorkle 434-384-7568 Email: carole.highopes@yahoo.com Web: highhopestrokesupport.webs.com
New River Valley Brain Injury Support Group

4th Tuesday of each month Waldron College, Radford Uni-Call for further information: Jason foundation at (540) 633-

2225

Stroke and Head Injury support Group Montgomery Regional Hospital

Meets the second Tuesday at 6:30 P.M.

Call for further information: Terry Shelor (540) 961-4652

Promoting a cooperative partnership between parents of children with special needs and the schools.

Virginia Association for Home Care

8001 Franklin Farms Dr., Suite 110 Richmond, VA 23229

Phone: 804-285-8636 Fax: 804-288-3303 vahc@vahc.org www.vahc.org

Muscular Dystrophy Association

MDA Clinic Roanoke Neurological Center Roanoke, VA

Ahmad Bushirk, MD 540-772-3237

VAIL has a loan closet of durable medical equipment & equipment for those who are deaf or hard of hearing in our Harrisonburg office. Items include: bedside toilets, walkers, crutches wheelchairs, hospital beds, TTY"s, phone or doorbell signalers, and phone amplifiers. Call 433-6513 to see what is available. VAIL and the Waynesboro Disability Services Board cooperatively operate a loan closet for the Wavnesboro area. Items include: bedside toilets, walkers. crutches, wheelchairs, and hospital beds. Call 942-6718.

Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF of Virginia

If you are DISABLED and interested in applying to become a member of a growing number of sportsmen who have physical limitations and enjoy the great outdoors, please examine the websites below and contact one of our member to join us in a life full of beauty and adventure. Websites: www wheelinsportsmen.org Contact: Robin Clark 434-979-6154 www.vanwtf.com

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities www.vaboard.org

Care Connection for Children

3299 Woodburn Road Suite 220 Annadale VA 22003 703-205-2629

Traumatic Brain Injury & Veterans

P O Box 1485 Bedford VA 24523 434-660-1235

American Disability Services Locates Funding Sources For People Who Have No Where Else To Turn.

American Disability Services specializes in locating funding sources for anyone who needs medical equipment, supplies or home safety modifications. With over 40,000 resources, we locate grants, loans and donations through federal, state and county programs, community and corporate resources, charities, philanthropists, and fundraisers, American Disability Services helps people nationwide. Call

877-599-0990 or go to our website-www.adisource.com.

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Wheeling WV 26003-5780 (304) 242-1390 (V/TTY); (800) 677-1390 E-mail: ateaster@stargate.net Web: www.wv.easter-seals.org

PriAPRy Lateral Sclerosis Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia-Support Group.

April 1, 2006 Berkeley Springs WV Contact Ms. Ronnie Grove frogrove@pennswoods.net or 13 Erin Ln. through relay 711 call: 304-258-5275

W. Virginia Chapter of Polio Survivors

The 2end Saturday of each month 1 pm – 3 pm Putnam General Hospital-Educational Room Hurricane W. VirginiaContact: Mae Inscoe-Group Leader 304-736-6325

West Virginia Chapter

336 Campbells Creek Boad Charleston WV 25306

Multiple Sclerosis

City Hospital Meeting Room One APRtinsburg WV 25401 (304) 262-6045

Adult Day Care Services Program

Berkeley Senior Services 217 N High St APRtinsburg WV 25401 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (304) 263-1297

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Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Shenandoah Health Center Charles Town WV (304) 535-2719

Disabilities Peer Support Group Eastern Panhandle Training Center 2000 Aiken Center APRtinburg WV 25401 (304)496-9528

Disability Determination Area Offices: Charleston Area Office Charleston Federal Center, 5th Floor 500 Quarrier Street Charleston, WV 25301 304-353-4249 Fax-304-353-4257

Job Accommodation Network West Virginia University 918 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Suite # 1 P O Box 6080 Morgantown, WV 26506-608 24-0041 or vats@virginia.edu

Brain Injury

Brain Injury Association of West Virginia, Inc. P.O. Box 574 Institute, WV 25112 (304) 766-4892; (800) 356-6443 (in WV) E-mail: BIAWV@aol.com

West Virginia Assistive Technology System

959 Hartman Run Road. Morgantown. WV 26505 800-841-8436 Email: wvats@hsc.wvu.edu

West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

959 Hartman Run Road, Morgantown, WV 26505 800-841-8436 www.cedvu.org

ALSA Free Standing Support Group Western Pennsylvania Chapter (Serves West Virginia) LandAPRks Building One Station Square Drive, Suite 550 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (800) 967-9296 Fax: (412) 471-2722 info@alswp.org www.alswp.org

AARP of W. Virginia 300 Summers Street Suite 400 Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: 304-344-4740 Fax: 304-344-4633

West Virginia's Technology Related Assistance Revolving Loan Fund For Individuals With Disabilities. Applications are available at The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services Assistive Technology Services. P O Box 1004, Institute WV 25112 800-642-8207

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2006 Braun Raised Roof Van. Driver Plus 8 Ambulatory Passengers and 2 Wheelchair Positions. Priced to Move. Please contact Andrew Clawson (540)256-3246 OCT V23

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Saint Francis Service Dogs' Veteran Service Dog Program

Hundreds of thousands of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have experienced service-related injuries such as physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Veterans Administration documents report over that over 500,000 American soldiers were injured in Iraq and Afghanistan by the end of 2009. As many as one in five American soldiers are coming home from war zones with profound physical afflictions and traumatic brain injuries, many of which require 24-hour attention. Above and beyond debilitating physical injuries, a great number of American veterans will suffer from emotional disabilities that they will bear for the rest of their lives.

Most of the physical injuries suffered from combat are visible; however, because PTSD falls into the category of a psychiatric disorder, many soldiers consider this stigmatizing. The symptoms The partnership generates a strong emotional bond between human tion.

honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces. A Saint Francis Service Dog can contribute to physical and occupational In working with the trainer and the dog in public, the veteran learns a wounded soldier.

Saint Francis Service Dogs can assist veterans who have experienced injuries by helping them with physical tasks, allowing them The companionship of a service dog eases the social anxiety when retrieve things from the refrigerator, brace a soldier when he trans- they must focus on their dog, its behavior, its safety, and its care. fers from the bed to a chair, and get help if the veteran falls. Through the game of "tug," a service dog can help soldiers as they adapt and A calm, quiet, well-mannered service dog instills safety and peace the same time, their round-the-clock companionship provides the that his dog is perfectly content. safety and peace of mind that comes from knowing that the dog can both provide assistance and seek help if needed.

spirits, and service dogs can help to treat both. This partnership fa- work, and participate fully in their life, family and community. cilitates veterans' recovery from mental, emotional, or social issues. As the bond between a service dog and their partner deepens, they ing attention away from their disability.



of PTSD include frustration, extreme anxiety, startle responses to and dog. Through this bond, the veteran often develops a positive sudden noises, panic attacks, depression, social withdrawal, self- focus and a stimulus to be active. The result is increased motivation, isolation, nightmares (or flashbacks of combat) and sleep depriva- higher self-esteem, a greater sense of belonging, and a higher quality of life that facilitates our veterans' recovery. A service dog can allow a veteran to cope with daily civilian life on so many levels. Saint Francis Service Dogs can help. We provide free, profession- The presence of a service dog relieves feelings of isolation and enally trained service dogs to assist wounded soldiers who have been courages social interaction. People are fascinated by the work of a service dog and want to know more, so they ask questions.

therapy and offer 24-hour emotional support and companionship to how to answer questions and deal with curious people. This engages the veteran and allows him to become more comfortable dealing with strangers.

to be more independent. Service Dogs are taught a wide range of the vet is in public because the conversation is about the dog. Anothcommands to assist in the activities of daily living. They are trained er advantage to the partnership of a veteran with PTSD and a service to open doors, turn lights switches on and off, help the veteran undog is that the presence of the dog often distracts the veteran from dress, bring the telephone, retrieve the remote control, carry bags, focusing on his own adversities and social apprehensions. Instead,

work with their new prosthetic limbs as well as many other remark- of mind if the veteran is awakened at night by a nightmare or war able tasks that allow the disabled veteran to function more freely. At flashback. The veteran will feel a sense of relief when he realizes

We have observed our clients achieve major increases in self-confi-Service dogs can also be an efficient, effective, and holistic health- dence, assertiveness and general mood improvement as they assume care treatment for these men and women who have served our coun-relationships with their dog partners. Partnership with a service dog try. Many veterans have not only wounded bodies but wounded can enable a veteran to function independently, go back to school or

A service dog can act as a bridge to the world around a veteran, become more and more in tune with one another, and their ability providing a positive focus for both civilians and the veteran, steer- to provide for one another's needs increases. Some of our partners have said:

"She makes me want to fight to adapt and carry on despite my dis- Dog are the dedication, unconditional love and thoughtful attention ability."

"He won't let me dwell on the agony of being paralyzed."

"She has rekindled my desire and passion for life."

The demand for service dogs to assist our nation's heroes who have Please consider making a donation to this very special program so to move forward in a positive direction.

It takes \$25,000 to obtain, train, and place one service dog. Saint For more information or to apply, Francis absorbs this cost and places them with approved candidates without cost. Some of the most valued qualities of a Veteran Service

they give to the people whom they serve. Saint Francis needs your help to provide professionally trained Veteran Service Dogs to assist our nation's wounded soldiers

been injured is a high priority for Saint Francis. With your help, that Saint Francis Service Dogs can touch and improve the lives of Saint Francis can honor our nation's heros while empowering them our brave service men and women who have faithfully served our country.

Please help us help them.

please visit: www.saintfrancisdogs.org



Sudoku Puzzles- Mobility for the M

		6		8	1			
	7				2	1		
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			6	4	_	9	_	

No winner for September as of press time!

Sponsored by M.I.T.S. of VA 2075 W. Main St Waynesboro, VA 22980 800-420-6470 Free Prize to the first correct puzzle returned to our office, one winner per household, winners are not eligible to win prizes for future Sudoku Puzzles in this publication.

How to Solve: Fill in the 9x9 grid with the missing numbers so that each column, row and 3x3 box contains the digits I-9 only once.

There is only one correct solution.





2075 W. Main Street Waynesboro, VA 22980

