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**AUGUST 2012**



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# *Disabled Dealer* Magazine™

**VIRGINIA & W. VIRGINIA**

**FREE**



By **NMEDA**

National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association

# Life Moving Forward

AND THE WINNERS ARE...SEE PAGE 14



**NATIONAL WEBSITE: [WWW.DISABLEDDEALER.COM](http://WWW.DISABLEDDEALER.COM) • 800-420-6470**



2011 Volkswagen Routan SE. W/ an American Wheelchair Conversion, 14" lowered floor. Power kneel, door, side entry ramp. Removable front driver/passenger seats. Multiple interior switches. Fold/flip foot rest. 56" door height. 57 1/2" Inside height. Multi-trac tie down attachments, tie downs, and lap belts. 800-420-6470 AUG V18



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 AUG V17



2007 Honda Odyssey EX. Vision Rear Entry Wheelchair Access. 4 way tie downs and lap belts. 2nd row remounted OEM bucket seats. Dual zone auto climate control AC. Rear air/heat controls. Dual sliding door w/ 2 end row power windows. 800-420-6470 AUG V16



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. AUG V15



2005 Chrysler Town & Country Touring/Braun Entervan Conversion: 10" lowered floor, Power kneel system, door, and ramp. Removable driver/front passenger seat. Multi position tie down mounting plates. Dark tinted glass, DVD Entertainment package, Overhead console. 77K Mi. 800-420-6470 AUG V14



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 AUG V13



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 AUG V12



2002 Chrysler Town & Country EX Vision Rear Entry Conversion. 10" Lowered Floor, Power Kneel, Rear Hatch, Power Ramp. 4 Way Tie Down Mounting Plates, Tie Downs, and Lap Belts. Fully Auto Chassis. 70K Miles. 800-420-6470 AUG V36



2003 Ford Windstar with Viewpoint Rear Entry Conversion. Power Kneel, Hatch, and Ramp. Mid Ship Remounted Bucket Seats. 4 Way Mounting Plates with Tie Downs and Lap Belts. Fully Automatic Chassis. 540-932-7650. AUG V37



2005 Dodge Grand Caravan with VMI's Northstar Conversion. 10" Lowered Floor, Power Kneel Suspension, Side Sliding Door. Power In Floor Ramp. Removable Driver and Front Passenger Seats. 4 Point Tie Down Mounting Plates. Only 36K Miles. 800-420-6470. AUG V38



2000 Dodge Grand Caravan with VMI's Northstar Conversion: in floor ramp, 10" lowered floor, tie down mounting plates, Q Strains and lap belts. Removable driver and front passenger seats. 3mo/3k mi Drive train/Mobility warranty available for an additional charge. 800-420-6470 AUG V11



2000 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport. Braun Entervan conversion. Lowered floor, power sliding door, power kneel & power ramp. 800-420-6470 AUG V10

**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 pre-owned adaptive equipment, services, resources, and events throughout the country."

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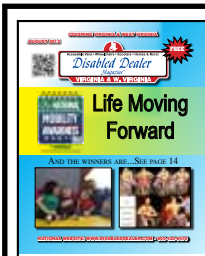
# Features

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## Publisher's Note

This month's Disabled Dealer Magazine shares the winners of the NMEDA Mobility Awareness Month Local Hero Contest on page 14. Because Disabled Dealer Magazine thinks everyone who entered the contest is a Hero, we want to put your stories and pictures out there one more time. We will be featuring one the individuals in VA and WV who submitted entries each month.



### About the Cover

Pictured on this months cover are two of the winners from the National Mobility Awareness Month Local Heroes program: Kenneth Davert, Bay City, MI.-Honda VMI. Ronald Miner, Frankfort, IL.-Braun Toyota. The third winner Alberto Cruz, Willimantic, CT.-Braun Chrysler can be viewed at www.nmeda.org via a youtube video.

# How To Place An Ad

**Classified/Photo Ad Instructions**

1. Fill out the word blanks describing your ad. Please use a maximum of 30 words to describe the item you are selling.
2. Send wording, photo and payment to address below.

**Sorry!**

No refunds or copy changes after the photo & ad have been received. Until time of renewal.

**Taking Photo**

Take photos with as much light as possible. Light should be at your back with no shadows on the object, keeping the object as large as possible in photo. Dark objects should be photographed on light backgrounds, and light objects a dark background. Please do not write on photos.

• For photos sent by digital camera or scanned, they must be in jpeg format at a high resolution or on Photo Paper.

• All Photos Become Property of Disabled Dealer Magazine of the Southeast.

**PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:**

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 Waynesboro, VA • 22980

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1997 Plymouth Grand Voyager Se/Viewpoint rear entry conversion. 8" drop floor, remounted mid-ship seats. Power rear hatch and ramp. EZ Lock and 4pt tie downs with lap belts. 68K Mi. 800-420-6470 AUG V8



1999 Ford Windstar with an IMS side entry conversion. Lowered floor. Removable driver and front passenger seat. 4 point tie downs with lap belts. 800-420-6470 AUG V7

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

AUG V6



1994 Plymouth Grand Voyager SE with an IMS Rampvan conversion. 10" lowered floor, removable driver and front passenger seats. Automatic sliding door, kneel and ramp. External key switch entry. 4 pt. tie downs and lap belts. 540-932-7300 AUG V5



# Mobile *Lifestyle* Advisor

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”.

Many of you will remember Bill C. from Virginia who wrote about purchasing a new Cube last month and being told by the car dealership that THEY would handle transferring his Bruno lift onto the new Cube. HA, HA, HA, as Bill soon found out the dealership did not know anything about applications for the Bruno lift. I replied back in last month’s column that he needed to go to a Mobility Dealer to make sure a hitch could be installed that would accept the Bruno lift. Bill found out there was NO Class II hitch made for his new Cube, despite what he was told. After reading my response from the last issue, he wrote me back to tell me things did work out AFTER he contacted his Mobility Dealer. They explained what needed to be done and that the Cube was not a great application for the Bruno but it could be done. He was very grateful for their assistance but did NOT have much good to say for the fast talking salesman at the car dealership. Buyer beware when you are working with car salesman, again they don’t know what they don’t know about your mobility situation. It is always a good idea to get your Mobility Dealer involved early in the car buying decision. Thanks Bill for the follow up.

**Q. I was wondering if you could tell me how to get a power chair with my Medicaid insurance and if there is some way to get a handicap van for free. David S.-Fla.**

A. David, I am impressed that my column is read in Florida!! Looking at the power chair first, go the easy route and contact The Scooter Store, 1-866-603-7369 they advertise FREE mobility aids all the time and should be very helpful in solving your power chair needs. Now the FREE van is a different story. I hope you took advantage of the “Local Hero” promotion that NMEDA ran during Mobility Awareness Month in May. See this month’s lead article about the winners. So, take that story if you submitted one and get it to all the local civic groups and churches in your area asking for

donations. Contact your local Independent Living Center as well as the Department of Rehabilitation Services in Florida and ask them how you could obtain a wheelchair accessible van. Look at the national resources in this magazine and if your disability has a national support group call them. You need to be your own marketing manic and get out the word; you never know when some group will pick up your cause and work in solving your need. Several months ago a local TV station in North Carolina took it upon themselves to highlight a family in need of wheelchair transportation for their son. In one short week funds were raised to buy a van. Put some sweat equity into the job and you may well be surprised as to the outcome.

**For you readers in Virginia and West Virginia who also entered the national contest but did not win, Dena Sims the editor of this magazine will be printing your stories in the coming months. Email her at: [ddmofva@ntelos.net](mailto:ddmofva@ntelos.net) to find out in what issue your story may appear.**

**Q. We are planning a vacation week in Maine and have some concern about service of our wheelchair and lift if we run into problems while on the road. Fred –NC.**

A. Another long distance reader with a great question that concerns anyone who is traveling throughout the United States with specialized equipment. As most of you know, vacations can become nightmares if you are involved in an accident or have a mechanical failure. Over the years, NMEDA has recognized this dilemma and has made inroads to help in situations like this. ALL certified NMEDA members, ( you can get a listing on the [www.nmeda.org](http://www.nmeda.org) site of dealers in every state) must have a 24 hour answering system that forwards after hour emergency calls to a live person who in turn can assist in solving your problem. I would lay out my route to Maine and write down the phone numbers of the NMEDA dealers along the route. This will give you the piece of mind knowing that there is a knowledgeable person with your concerns in mind that can assist you while away from your home base. Great question Fred and thanks for reading.

**Keep those questions coming in and keep those wheels rolling on! Send your questions to [mobility@ntelos.net](mailto:mobility@ntelos.net) and receive a “free gift” from “The Mobile Lifestyle Advisor”, c/o Richard Baldwin, 2075 W. Main St. Waynesboro Va.**

# Celebrating

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## 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SE



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## 2012 Toyota Sienna LE



Featuring Braun Rampvan Mobility Package with 14" Lowered Floor, Power Fold Up Ramp, Power Door, Power Knee System, and Removable Driver and Passenger Seats.

## 2012 Chrysler Town & Country



Featuring Braun Entervan II Mobility Package with 10" Lowered Floor, Removable Driver and Passenger Seats, Fold-Out Power Ramp, Power Door, and Kneeling System.

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**2004 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT**

Featuring Braun Entervan with 10" Lowered Floor. Other features include: Removable driver and passenger seat, custom ground effects, dual air & heat w/rear controls, and much more.



**2005 Ford E-150**

Featuring Braun Millennium Lift (Dual Post). Other features include: handheld pendant for lift operation, carpeting overhead lighting, and much more.



**2006 Ford E-350**

Featuring Braun Millennium Lift with bus door entrance. Other features include: dual air & heat, tinted glass, and much more.



**2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SE**

Featuring VMI Northstar Mobility Package with 11" lowered floor. Other features include: Air Conditioner w/3-Zone Temperature Control, Steering Wheel-Mounted Audio Controls, Media Center 130 CD/MP3, Power Window w/Drivers One Touch Feature, and much more.

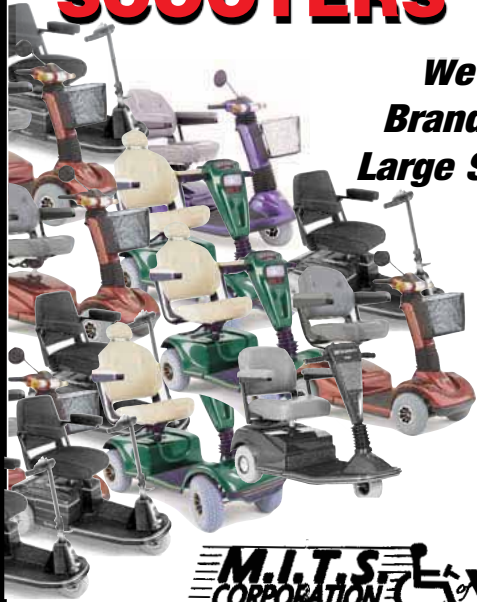
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**E-Mail: [mobility@ntelos.net](mailto:mobility@ntelos.net) Website: <http://www.mitsofva.com>**



**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. **AUG M2**



Trust-T-Lifts are designed to move physically challenged individuals from ground level to the main floor. Two styles to choose from. Used units in stock! 800-420-6470 **AUG M3**



M.I.T.S. of Virginia installs straight & custom curved stairlifts. Call Tom for more information. New and Used units starting at \$1,500. 1-800-420-6470. **AUG M4**



Preowned Lifts. Save \$100's off retail price. Outside, Trunk, and Truck Lifts. Call 1-800-420-6470. Ask for Tom. **AUG M5**



Pre owned Lifts in Stock. Prices starting at \$150. Call 1-800-420-6470, ask for Tom. **AUG M6**



Tension mounted, floor to ceiling pole that allows user to go from sitting position in the bathroom with the pivoting Curve Grab Bar. 4 grabs at 4 different heights, locks in place every 45 degrees. Rubber pads on the top and bottom protect the bathroom ceiling and floor. MITS of VA. 800-420-6470 **AUG M7**



AquaTec Beluga bath seat has adjustable back laterals to provide a stable support for a safe and pleasurable bath experience. Back support reclines to 35 degrees. Battery operated; simple home installation. Portable for traveling. At MITS of VA. 1-800-420-6470 **AUG M8**

**"SureHands Mobility 1640 Series Mobile Lift With Hygiene Sling. Originally paid \$6,300! Only used once! \$4000.! 304-826-7581 or [kmeek85835@comcast.net](mailto:kmeek85835@comcast.net)**

**AUG M9**





2007 Ford E250 Nor-Cal/Tuscany Conversion. Raised roof, 9in cut drop floor, 56.5in door opening. 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 AUG V4

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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. AUG V2



1997 Chevrolet 3500 Auto transmission, dual ac/heat, power brakes/anti lock. Power steering, tilt wheel. AM FM Stereo/Cassette. TV/VCR. Illuminated vanity mirrors. Sofa bed. 24" Raised Roof. Crow River Single Arm Lift. 800-420-6470 AUG V1



Now Available! 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. AUG V21



"M.I.T.S. HAS THE LATEST IN SEATING OPTIONS. 2075 W. MAIN ST. WAYNESBORO, VA. 1-800-420-6470. AUG V22

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AUG V20

**1990 Chevrolet G 20 with a Ricon Clearaway Lift and Raised Roof. 5.7L V-8. Call 540-932-7636.**

AUG V35

The following calendar of events, support groups, and resources 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](http://www.spiritrollerministries.org)

### Granting Freedom

#### 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](http://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: [ddhinfo@ddhh.state.va.us](mailto:ddhinfo@ddhh.state.va.us)  
Website: <http://www.vddhh.org>

### Virginia 2-1-1 Get Connected.

#### Get Answers.

Dial 2-1-1 / [www.211virginia.org](http://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](http://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.atffa.org](http://www.atffa.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.

Roanoke, Virginia 24012

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](http://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.biaav.net](http://www.biaav.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.goodwillva.org](http://www.goodwillva.org)

MA/ATP Provides medical equipment to people in need for no charge regardless of age or disability. Please call to verify availability of equipment.

### Lions Club-Special Needs Equipment

State Chairman-Mike Nicolos

3906 Melvern Place

Alexandria, VA 22312-1149

E-mail: [lionmikecoordinator@mymailstation.com](mailto: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 Veterans 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 information.

### 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 Dining Room

2nd Thursday of ea. mo. 1-3 pm

Contact: Carole McCorkle 434-384-7568

Email: [carole.highhopes@yahoo.com](mailto:carole.highhopes@yahoo.com)

Web: [highhopestrokesupport.webs.com](http://highhopestrokesupport.webs.com)

### New River Valley Brain Injury Support Group

4th Tuesday of each month Waldron College, Radford University

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.org](http://vahc.org) [www.vahc.org](http://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 Waynesboro area. Items include: bedside toilets, walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, and hospital beds. Call 942-6718.

### Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTFF 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](http://www.wheelinsportsmen.org) Contact: Robin Clark 434-979-6154 [www.vanwtf.com](http://www.vanwtf.com)

### Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

[www.vboard.org](http://www.vboard.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.

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E-mail: [ateaster@stargate.net](mailto:ateaster@stargate.net)

Web: [www.wv.easter-seals.org](http://www.wv.easter-seals.org)

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[frogrove@pennswoods.net](mailto:frogrove@pennswoods.net)

or 13 Erin Ln.

through relay 711 call:

304-258-5275

### W. Virginia Chapter of Polio Survivors

The 2nd Saturday of each month

1 pm - 3 pm

Putnam General Hospital-Educational Room Hurricane W.

VirginiaContact: Mae Inscoc-Group Leader

304-736-6325

### Paralyzed Veterans of America

West Virginia Chapter

336 Campbells Creek Road

Charleston WV 25306

304-925-9352

### 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.

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(304) 535-2719

Disabilities Peer Support Group

Eastern Panhandle Training Center

2000 Aiken Center

APRtinsburg 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](mailto: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](mailto:BIAWV@aol.com)

### West Virginia Assistive Technology System.

959 Hartman Run Road. Morgantown, WV 26505

800-841-8436 Email: [wvats@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:info@alswp.org) [www.alswp.org](http://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.

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Rehabilitation Services Assistive Technology Services.

P O Box 1004, Institute WV 25112 800-642-8207

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AUG V26

# Winners of the National Mobility Awareness Month Local Heroes Contest!

The news is in! The winners of the National Mobility Awareness Month Local Heroes program were announced on the nationally syndicated television show, "The Daily Buzz." Alberto Cruz (Willimantic, Conn.), Ken Davert (Bay City, Mich.) and Ron Minor (Frankfort, Ill.) shared stories of triumph overcoming their disabilities and how their new, wheelchair accessible vehicles will further empower them in their active lifestyles. Please read their stories of inspiration below.

We are so proud of the winners and the more than 1,700 Local Heroes who submitted their stories. The immense response to the program reaffirms our work to establish the awareness month. Furthermore, our leaders in Washington, D.C. have taken notice. Recently, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, a resolution was submitted to designate May 2012 as National Mobility Awareness Month. It is an honor to receive this support. Again, on behalf of NMEDA's more than 600 mobility equipment dealers, manufacturers and driver rehabilitation specialists, we thank you for helping us celebrate this first-ever awareness month across the United States and Canada.

Kenneth Davert-

I have Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI)-a brittle bone condition, and I stand only 2 feet 10 inches tall. I have incurred over 200 fractures. I have a wonderful husband, Ken (who has Cerebral Palsy), and we are parents of twins, Austin and Michaela. They also have OI and are 13 years old. Through their positive outlook and their incredible self determination, our children provide inspiration to us and to those around them.

Michaela is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and an honor roll student. She hopes to one day open her own pastry business. For the past three years, Michaela was the top cookie seller in her Girl Scout troop. This year, she sold an amazing 901 boxes of cookies.

Austin is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade A/B student. He enjoys surfing the net and flight simulators. His passion is flying. He has had the opportunity to actually fly a plane his friend equipped with a special control stick. He plays the drums. I am a life-long advocate for people with disabilities. I've served on numerous councils and boards promoting the rights of people with disabilities. I am a contributing author to two national disability publications, have testified on behalf of people with disabilities at state, senate and house appropriation committees, and have appeared as a guest on numerous local radio and television programs to promote inclusion and independence for people with disabilities. Due to my health condition, in January of 2006 I left my job as Executive Director for the Center for Independent Living of Mid-Michigan and am now devoting more time to my family.

Because all four of us have significant disabilities and three of us rely on power chairs, dependable transportation is essential. I drive a Chrysler 1998 minivan and Ken drives a 1998 Dodge full-size van. Both vehicles are wheelchair accessible, but they are

over 13 years old, in excess of 130,000 miles and are becoming increasingly unreliable due to age and rust condition. My vehicle has had ongoing battery charge problems that cannot be repaired, causing me to be stranded on numerous occasions. Once, I had to use my power wheelchair to push it out of the garage, so Ken could jump start it! Rust has become so bad on Ken's car that it has created a hole through the floor. A new vehicle would enable our family to continue to remain independent and active participants in our community.

Ronald Minor

I am a disabled Army Veteran who was injured on active duty while serving my country. As I aged, my disabilities and limited mobility got the best of me, leading to divorce, separation from my children, and the loss of my job. I gained a lot of weight, and fell into depression. My health was deteriorating and I had no love, no hope, and a lack of focus for a future. I had hit bottom and did not like who I had become: a fat disabled man in a wheelchair, which was not how I wanted people to view me, especially my children. My brother told me about a Wheelchair Bodybuilding competition. I contacted the organization and decided that I would try to do this as I had grown out of my fat pants. I purchased books on diet, got a gym membership, and went to work. While that may sound simple, it was not. Being in a wheelchair with spinal cord troubles and other disabilities creates obstacles as well as mobility challenges. You cannot just go into any gym and lift weights like an able-bodied person. I had to figure out how I could modify workouts so that I could overcome the challenges to build muscle and lose fat without further injury. It did take time, a lot of studying, and modification of workout plans. I am still altering things and making improvements. It is a lot of trial and error when you are forgoing new ground. There is not much information about training with multiple disabilities especially from a wheelchair.

In time, with plenty of training, hard work, clean diet, and the proper mindset I became the Wheelchair Bodybuilding World Champion and the winner of numerous Gold medals at National Wheelchair Games. No longer am I the fat man in a wheelchair with no hope, no future, and poor health. I'm now a role model for those with and without disabilities.

I now use what I have learned to coach others in Wheelchair Sports and life. I have also used my healthy winning image to promote Veteran's causes and have worked with my U.S. Senator, and members of Congress to get Veteran's issues passed in the United States Congress and signed into law by the President. I can now look back and see the challenges I overcame with pride.

Alberto Cruz, Willimantic, CT.

Alberto Cruz's story can be viewed at [www.nmeda.org](http://www.nmeda.org) via a YouTube video.



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V40

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9	8					7		3
			8	3				5
							2	6
2	3							
		7		4		5		
							6	4
1	2							
7				6	9			
3		9					4	8

**Winner for June 2012 was, Karen Alexander!**

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