TECHNOLOGY
Gives Everyone
A SHOT!

CAREY LARABEE,
Disney's Wide World of Sports
Guest Services Representative
& Community Projects Assistant

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living
30th Anniversary 1976-2006
Livingston, Monroe & Washtenaw Counties
Greater independence is right outside your door with AATA. We offer reduced-fare ID cards and door-to-door transit service for ADA-eligible individuals. We’ll even help you learn to get around through our Travel Training program. So whether you opt for fixed-bus service or one of our specialized services, AATA provides safe, efficient transportation — and better mobility for you. For more information, call 734.973.6500, or visit www.theride.org.
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Walk & Roll 2007

Saturday, March 17, 2007 at Bowen Field House on the campus of EMU.
As our volunteers and staff work each day to achieve our mission of improving the quality of life of people with disabilities, we use two important facets of the Independent Living Philosophy.

The first concept recognizes that disability is a natural part of the human experience. The disability experience can begin at birth or later in life as our health changes as a result of illness, a traumatic accident or simply as a result of the aging process. Everyone will, at some point in his or her life, experience some form of disability.

**PRESIDENT’S DESK**

The second concept states that the focus of policy should be to fix the environment, not the person. It is the physical and attitudinal barriers that keep individuals with disabilities from being more independent. Disability does not limit our ability to be productive; it is policy and practice that prevents us from living successful lives.

Using these concepts as a guide, our work then focuses on achieving four important goals: Equality of Opportunity, Full Participation, Independent Living and Economic Self-Sufficiency.

In order to achieve greater levels of equality of opportunity it takes looking at things with a “third eye” and making a modest, reasonable accommodation for a person to access a program or a service.

Full participation means that people with disabilities have the right to control their own lives and a right to have their voices heard when decisions are being made that impact their lives. The core concept of Independent Living is based on the simple premise that people with disabilities should be able to live how, where and with whom they choose and have maximum control over their lives, just like people without disabilities have.

Economic self-sufficiency is critical for people with disabilities, just as it is for everyone else. Individuals with disabilities need competitive employment opportunities and access to programs that provide assistance and work incentives.

After all, this is what the IL Movement is all about—the desire to be seen as individuals who are capable of making decisions and capable of making contributions to our families and our communities.

This year’s edition of Access Magazine focuses on how people with disabilities use technology on their journey toward the American Dream. Enjoy.

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Why support the CIL?

Why serve on the Board of Directors for the Center for Independent Living?

Through the last 30 years, many volunteers eased the load and improved services available through the CIL. My husband and I were among them.

The barriers for people with disabilities seemed like large mountains at the time. Hope is a strong motivator pushing all of us to improve everything possible and even some impossible. The mountain looks smaller and smaller.

Life is friendlier and more accommodating to the aged and the persons needing accessibility in 2006. At age 65, I suddenly know that all the things I wished for children with disabilities will serve my own needs. My arthritic hands love using automatic door openers, while my aging feet love curb cuts. The greater community of stroller-pushers and bicyclers realizes the ease accommodations offer.

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**CHAIRPERSON’S CORNER**

The CIL arranges social events for children and teenagers with disabilities, an area often neglected. They support wheelchair basketball and other athletics designed with accommodations. Even hockey shows up on the list of available sports for persons with disabilities.

People using wheelchairs have a huge display of chairs available. Athletic and competitive chairs, stair-climbing wheelchairs (some move to a standup position allowing eye-to-eye contact with fellow workers and friends), and video telephones make for amazing changes. Science is ahead of our ability to monetarily provide these life-changing items to people with disabilities because of a 68% unemployment rate. Many creative accommodations made possible with help from researchers, engineers, artists and graphic designers cost more than most people can afford. The CIL works towards finding ways to provide assistance towards the items currently available.

We can all become better neighbors. The CIL makes huge changes and improvements for people with disabilities with the help of volunteers and staff members, with and without disabilities. Join us, please.

Joan E. Smith, Board Chairperson

For information on how to contribute to the AACIL, please see pages 24, 25, and 50.
Nearly a year has gone by since I began a new challenge, leaving the blustery Michigan winters for sunny Florida. It seems like yesterday that I was introducing myself in the 2004 edition of Access, as a the new Sports and Recreation Coordinator at the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (CIL).

While a lot has changed since then (new apartment, new friends, new job), my passion for sports and making a difference in the lives of others remains. Like the Ann Arbor CIL, Disney’s Wide World of Sports is a first-class organization giving me a wonderful opportunity to grow personally and professionally.

Currently, I enjoy two roles with Disney’s Wide World of Sports: Guest Services Representative and Community Relations Assistant. For someone who enjoys people, working in Guest Services allows me to interact with our guests on many different levels. Whether it’s giving a tour of the sports complex, assisting with tickets or ushering an event, I take great pride to ensure all athletes, coaches and spectators enjoy a memorable experience.

In doing so, I have had the privilege of being a part of some very special events that call Disney’s Wide World of Sports Complex home, including: Atlanta Braves Spring Training, the inaugural World Baseball Classic, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Training Camp, and the NBA Pre-Draft Camp — not to mention the chance to meet sports personalities Isiah Thomas, Larry Bird, Larry Brown, Jon Gruden and Michigan State Men’s Basketball Coach Tom Izzo (yes, Wolverines and Spartans can co-exist!), to name a few.

Continued on page 6
These encounters, however, pale in comparison to the friendships I am developing with my fellow Disney cast members. I feel very lucky, throughout my young working career, to always be surrounded by people who want me to succeed. Becky Dedo, Disney Sports Community Projects Manager, is no exception.

During slow event periods at the sports complex, I assist Becky in coordinating many of Disney Sports’ community outreach initiatives. My favorite project thus far has been working on the Sports Community Outreach Experience, where student-athletes competing at DWWS visit Central Florida United Way agencies. In addition to scheduling responsibilities, I served as a co-host, accompanying a high school lacrosse team to United Cerebral Palsy for a fun-filled day of games, arts and crafts!

I am happy to say my transition to a new home has been relatively smooth. Yet, I understand without the love and support of my parents, friends and caregivers, none of this would be possible.

Then again, with the assistive technology available today for people with disabilities, anything is achievable. Through my iBOT 4000, a revolutionary power wheelchair, I can see the world from a perspective I only used to imagine. As a Disney cast member, making eye contact with every guest is imperative. Using the iBOT’s “balance function,” I can speak to a person at eye level. Rotating its rear tires atop of the center wheels, the iBOT can elevate and is calibrated to maintain its equilibrium by performing a slow “rocking” motion.

Similarly, if I want to go to a friend’s house with no accessible entrance, I activate the “stair climb” mode. The wheels, depending on the direction in which my assistant shifts his/her weight, will rotate up or down the stairs. Better yet, by utilizing its “4-wheel drive” feature, I can even take a cruise on the beach! This sure beats being pushed in a manual chair. Here, four of six tires are lowered into the sand, making for a smooth ride.

Sometimes, I really have to pinch myself. Not only do I work at a place where I can continue to ignite my passion for sports, at Disney’s Wide World of Sports I help people make their sports dreams a reality. My Disney experience, coupled with the assistive technology offered by the iBOT, has helped me see a new world—a world with no limits.
What is
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

AT helps maintain or improve the ability of people with disabilities to be full participants in everyday life.

BY GLEN ASHLOCK, MS, ATP

Assistive technology (AT) is a general term covering any technology that is intended to make use of a person’s abilities to make more things possible. It can be as simple as a built-up handle on a pencil, as complex as custom computer hardware and software, or just a different way of performing a task. AT helps maintain or improve the ability of people with disabilities to be full participants in everyday life.

AT devices can be off-the-shelf products, modified versions of commercial products, or custom-made equipment. Many products are now designed specifically for people with disabilities and are available without the need for customization. These include remote controls for TVs and stereos that can be operated from a single switch, head-controlled mouse emulators for computer access, and switch-operated toys that allow children with limited movement to learn to control their world. Custom driving aids allow people with limited arm movements to drive a car, and prosthetics are designed to allow a user to excel at specific sports such as running, skiing, or rock climbing.

AT services include helping people to determine which techniques or devices are necessary, training and support to ensure the proper use of recommended equipment and methods, and how to integrate devices into your home, classroom, or job. Training for the users and their families and friends is a critical step to ensure safe and effective use of AT devices. Sometimes just modifying the way a task is approached and performed provides people the ability to stay independent without additional devices.

Who needs
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Anybody who has short- or long-term goals that they cannot meet due to a physical or cognitive disability may benefit from AT. When most people think about assistive technology they think about it benefiting people with very limited abilities. While this is an appropriate application of AT, many other people could also use AT in their lives. AT can help a person with arthritis turn the key in a lock or open a jar. It can relieve arm stress that makes typing for long periods impossible due to repetitive strain injuries. AT can allow someone with limited energy or who is at risk of falling to turn lights on and off without getting up from the chair or out of bed.

No matter what the disability, AT helps people gain the independence and freedom they need. This technology allows people with disabilities to fully participate in what life has to offer.
The Assistive Technology state grant program was established through a Federal Act in 1988 as seed money to enable states to create systems for improving access to Assistive Technology devices for individuals with disabilities. The Assistive Technology Act of 2004 refocuses the Assistive Technology state grant program on direct services to individuals. Now administered under the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the program reaches 56 states and territories, including Michigan.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) has acted as the lead agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program (AT Program) since 1991. The implementing agency for the grant since 1997 is the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC), a 501(c)3 non-profit established in 1982. MDRC is a statewide, cross-disability network of individuals and organizations that advances the issues of Michigan's disability community through grassroots activism, public education and advocacy. MDRC works to build opportunities for people with disabilities so they may live fully integrated lives within their chosen communities, now and in the future. A key component of MDRC’s work is building coalitions with other agencies, advocacy groups, disability organizations, and other groups and organizations throughout the state.
Michigan’s AT Program receives consumer-driven advice for planning and implementing its activities through its Assistive Technology Advisory Council. The council members represent the assistive technology needs of Michigan’s citizens and provide input for Michigan’s three-year State Plan for Assistive Technology. Additionally, the program contracts with organizations, such as Centers for Independent Living, that are directed by people with disabilities to further ensure consumer direction of the program’s activities at the local level.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Michigan uses 70% of the resources of the AT Grant Program, for the following three activities:

1. STATE FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Michigan operates the Michigan AT Loan Fund to provide low-interest loans to people with disabilities so they can purchase AT. Michigan Disability Rights Coalition partners with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan and the Financial Health Credit Union to operate this program. These same partners operate the Michigan Telework Loan Fund, which provides loans for the purchase of equipment for people with disabilities to work at home or operate home businesses. For more information about the loan funds please visit: http://www.michiganloanfunds.org/.

2. DEVICE REUSE

Michigan administers the AT Xchange (ATX) to connect people who have an AT device for either sale or donation with people looking for AT devices. The AT Xchange provides an interactive website at: http://www.atxchange.org

3. DEVICE DEMONSTRATION

Device demonstrations enable people with disabilities to compare and contrast the benefits and drawbacks of a variety of devices, in order to help them make an informed buying decision. Over the next three years, Michigan will increase the number of people reached through demonstrations of AT around the state, through the support of local device demonstrations in historically unserved and under-served areas. For a list of local projects providing device demonstration through subcontracts with the AT Program, see: http://www.copower.org/At/demo.htm.

STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

With the remaining 30% of resources, the program provides training, coordination and collaboration, public awareness, and technical assistance. Michigan’s program subcontracts with consumer-directed organizations to provide training statewide. Michigan also provides, in partnership with local groups, toll-free information and referral services, information through presentations at conferences, and collaboration on publications and training materials about AT. For more information about these activities, please see http://www.copower.org/At/.

The Michigan AT Program also produces AT Connections, an email-based newsletter published 10 times a year on Michigan AT activities, coordination and collaboration on statewide issues. Copies of AT Connections are available on the web at: http://www.copower.org/At/atnews.htm. To subscribe, send an email message to Subscribe Me.
Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (LBPD) is part of a FREE national program for individuals who are unable to read or use standard print as a result of a physical or visual disability. The Library loans books and magazines in large print and on cassettes to qualified individuals through the United States Postal System and offers a variety of programs including a bi-monthly book club. The Library produces an on-line and large print resource guide: Services, Products and Technology for the Visually Impaired: What You Need and How to Find It.

In addition to the technology at the LBPD, which is shared below, future patrons should also be aware of how warm and welcoming the LBPD staff is to everyone. If you are a new or experienced user, or an organization, and have a question or a need, the LBPD is there with ideas, suggestions, and resources. The LBPD and the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living have a rich history of collaboration that has benefited both organizations and continues to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

Washtenaw County LBPD also has an Assistive Technology Reading Room, with equipment and computer hardware and software for reading regular print materials and accessing the Internet.

The Assistive Technology Reading Room houses several full-sized closed circuit televisions (CCTVs) which allow the user to magnify reading, writing and other materials up to 45 times the original size. CCTVs can be used for reading documents, books, newspapers, magazines, letters, reports, contracts, or even to see coins, stamps and photographs. Both a color CCTV and a black and white CCTV are available; several are available for loan to registered institutions. The LBPD also circulates descriptive videos to registered institutions and individuals.

Other equipment available at the Library includes The Reading Edge™, a scanner that converts text to synthesized speech and reads it aloud in seconds. The text can be converted to Braille using the Library’s Braille embosser. The Primer™, a lightweight, black-and-white, hand-held electronic magnifier that connects in minutes to any television set, is also available for use.

People who want to surf the Internet, send and receive email, or use a computer for word processing or other tasks can use the Library’s personal computer with a 20-inch monitor. The personal computer is loaded with JAWS® (Job Access with Speech), a screen-reading program, and Zoom-Text, a software program that enlarges regular text.

Nick Wilcox, Washtenaw County LBPD’s trainer, provides people with disabilities of all ages an opportunity to learn computer skills. Training is by appointment and is free of charge.

The Assistive Technology Reading Room is open during regular Library hours, 8:30 AM – 7:30 PM, Monday-Friday. Washtenaw County LBPD is located at 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor. The reading room will continue to be updated with new technology and services as equipment becomes available to the LBPD.

For more information about general Library services and programs or to access the Resource Guide, call the Library at 734-973-4350 or 1-888-460-0680, or visit the Library’s website, www.eWashtenaw.org.
Imagine yourself in a situation where you have limited financial resources, even fewer opportunities to create those resources, and are in need of a wheelchair, hearing aid, ramp, or computer software that will allow you to go about your life without impairment or complication. In the past, some people in Michigan had difficulty acquiring these devices essential to improving their lives. In response to this need, organizations throughout the state came together to offer people with disabilities two opportunities to take out loans for assistive technology.

The Assistive Technology Loan Fund provides loans for people with disabilities and their family members in order to purchase assistive technology devices, such as wheelchair ramps or hearing aids, which improve their quality of life and independence. Another resource, The Telework Loan Fund, allows people with disabilities and their employers to purchase assistive technology devices, such as computers and computer software, that allow the person with a disability to work from home. Applications for these loan funds are available at the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living and many other sites throughout the state of Michigan.

As the loan fund application site manager for the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, it is my responsibility to assist people applying for a loan by filling out and filing paperwork and insuring that they have all the materials necessary to apply for the loan including: statements of income, equipment price quotes, and estimation of monthly expenses. Working alongside the applicants creates the opportunity to empower them through decision-making, giving them the responsibility and opportunity to take complete control of their lives.

Continued on page 12
"I feel better about myself because I am more independent and able to go places on my own."

One such example is Ana Obando. For as long as I can remember, she and her mother have been a team, doing everything together. In 2004, Ana’s mother was injured and unable to give the support and care she always had provided, including assisting Ana in her wheelchair up and down the steps at their house. This was a very difficult time for the two of them. They realized it was time to make some changes. Ana and her mother applied for a loan through the Assistive Technology Loan Fund to install a ramp at their home. Ana was very excited the day the loan was approved. The ramp was completed three days later. Because of the ramp, Ana leaves the house independently and is now a frequent user of A-Ride, which she uses to meet her friends at the park, mall, or at social outings. The true importance of the ramp is captured in one quote from Ana. “I feel better about myself because I am more independent and able to go places on my own.”

I am proud to be a part of an organization and program that assists people with disabilities in transcending barriers to becoming active, contributing members of society.

If you live in Washtenaw County and would like more information about the Assistive Technology Loan Fund or the Telework Loan Fund, contact Alex Gossage at: (734) 971-0277 ext. 25 or agossage@aacil.org or visit http://www.michigan-loanfunds.org/ to find a loan fund site in your area.
A key component of the Independent Living philosophy is “informed choice.” Assistive Technology (AT) professionals help match needs with products, provide modifications, training, and other services. Without involvement from the end users and their families and caregivers, however, the process won’t work.

Providers of AT can include rehabilitation engineers, occupational and physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, teachers, and others. It is important to find a qualified AT provider who specializes in the area with which you need help. Referrals from friends or other professionals are a good way to find a reputable service provider. Another way is to find a provider with certification in the field. Credentials do not guarantee good service, but they show that the provider has completed a training program, has demonstrated knowledge in the field, participates in continuing education, and follows a code of ethics. Two commonly accepted certifications are the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) and Assistive Technology Supplier (ATS). The ATP is for people who provide AT services such as evaluation and training. The ATS is for people who sell AT equipment.

For more details on the ATP or ATS certifications or a complete list of RESNA-certified providers in your area, go to www.RESNA.org. Some providers of AT service in Michigan are listed on the following page.
VENDOR RESOURCES

LS&S
A wide range of products for people with hearing or vision impairments
www.lssproducts.com

Infogrip
A collection of computer AT from many different companies
www.infogrip.com

Dynamic Living
Products that help with activities of daily living
www.dynamic-living.com

Independent Living Aids, Inc.
Products for hearing loss, low vision, writing aids, mobility and personal care
www.independentliving.com

Sammons Preston
Professional Rehab products
www.sammonspreston.com

Harris Communications
Products for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
www.harriscomm.com

Saltillo
Communication devices from several companies, switches, mounting systems and software
www.saltillo.com

Dynavox
Communication devices
www.dynavoxtech.com

FUNDING AT

Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund
Telework Loan Fund
www.michiganloanfunds.org
800-828-2714

Many online resources for AT exist, but it can be difficult to find them if you don’t know exactly what you are looking for, as there are few central sites. Most products are sold through the company that makes them, so it can be hard to compare similar products. A few dealers now sell products from multiple companies and can be used as a resource. The list below is not complete, but it is a good cross-section of AT products that can help you get started.

MICHIGAN AT RESOURCES

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living
www.aacil.org
734-971-0277

Disability Network Assistive Technology Center (Flint)
www.disnetwork.org
810-742-1800

Mary Free Bed Rehab Technology Center (Grand Rapids)
www.maryfreebed.com
800-211-4813

Michigan Commission for the Blind
www.michigan.gov/mcb
800-292-4200

Michigan Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
www.michdhh.org
800-968-7327

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
www.copower.org
800-760-4600

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service
www.mpas.org
800-288-5923

United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan AT Center (Marquette)
www.ucpatcenter.org
906-226-9903

University of Michigan Rehabilitation Engineering Program
www.med.umich.edu/rehabeng/
734-936-7170

LS&S
A wide range of products for people with hearing or vision impairments
www.lssproducts.com

Infogrip
A collection of computer AT from many different companies
www.infogrip.com

Dynamic Living
Products that help with activities of daily living
www.dynamic-living.com

Independent Living Aids, Inc.
Products for hearing loss, low vision, writing aids, mobility and personal care
www.independentliving.com

Sammons Preston
Professional Rehab products
www.sammonspreston.com

Harris Communications
Products for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
www.harriscomm.com

Saltillo
Communication devices from several companies, switches, mounting systems and software
www.saltillo.com

Dynavox
Communication devices
www.dynavoxtech.com
A n n  A r b o r  C e n t e r  f o r  I n d e p e n d e n t  L i v i n g  |  2 0 0 6  A c c e s s  M a g a z i n e

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

BY ANGIE CARLSON,
AmeriCorps VISTA Team Member

Have you ever been in a computer class where you felt the instructor was speaking too fast or talking in a foreign language that you didn’t understand? As a person with a disability, have you ever said to yourself, “This computer would be so much easier to use if only I had…”? If you answered “yes” to either or both of these questions, then the Ann Arbor CIL understands, and we are eager to help. We offer introductory and advanced computer classes to folks with disabilities who might be entering school for the first time, or wanting to change careers and are looking to gain new job skills. The class sizes are small, fun, and focus on each individual student learning the material to the best of their ability by offering personalized hands-on learning opportunities.

The advantage of having an intimate class setting rather than one-on-one training is our ability to offer more students more information at one time. Students enjoy this learning environment because it is less intimidating, allowing them the freedom to ask questions when they don’t understand something. Students can interact with one another. Finally, people who may need assistive technology to use a computer independently now have the opportunity to utilize the equipment in our Assistive Technology Lab (ATC) and at the same time are able to feel included and learn with their peers. I have personally witnessed students take what they’ve learned from the class and help each other, resulting in friendships and even new job leads. For more information about classes or to sign up for a class, please contact Angie Carlson at acarlson@aacil.org.

Here’s what some students have said about our classes:

“The computer class touched my life. I did know the basics, but I needed to excel my skills, so I enrolled in Angie Carlson’s computer class at Ann Arbor CIL. That was just what I needed. The class was somewhat small, but you got more one-on-one participation, which was wonderful, and a better understanding of what was being taught. I’m grateful for having a patient instructor to make sure every student could keep up with the class. The teacher and my peers were marvelous; it was like going to home school with the family. Thank you, Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, for improving the quality of my life and my knowledge of computers.”

~ Shemeka Hightower

“Last summer I took several computer classes at the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living. I took Microsoft Word and advanced Word and Excel. Angie Carlson was my computer teacher for all these classes. She is a very knowledgeable teacher. I have learned more about computers from her than I did in high school and my two years in college. In addition to learning the computer, I have become good friends with Angie. I still spend a lot of time in the computer lab to go online and e-mail my family and friends. Even though I am no longer a student, I am still learning a lot about computers. Thank you, CIL, for having Angie Carlson as your computer teacher and IT person. She is wonderful!”

~ Kathy Schoch

“I would highly recommend Angie Carlson’s computer classes. Michigan Rehabilitation Services referred me to the CIL. Since I’ve taken her computer classes, I’ve become more confident with my computer skills. Angie’s computer classes are laid back, relaxing, and she explains the class assignments well. She’s been a great help and even offers suggestions when needed. I feel that her classes will help me in getting a job in the future.”

~ Gwen Fjellman

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living | 2006 Access Magazine
RIDING Like the WIND

BY GLEN ASHLOCK, MS, ATP

When an able-bodied person decides to buy a new bicycle, there is a process that most people routinely use. They go to a couple of bike shops, compare models, get professional advice on price, components, and fit, ride several brands of bikes, and then pick the one that best matches their needs.

When a person with a disability decides to buy a bike, the process isn’t so simple. No shops exist with rows of handbikes or tricycles to look at, compare, and ride, and there are few impartial and knowledgeable people you can ask for help. Since disability characteristics vary widely, equipment needs also are more varied than for the able-bodied rider. For people whose mobility is limited, the difference between the right cycle and “almost” the right cycle can often be the difference between finding a cycle that works for them and not riding. Adapted cycles can be expensive, so it is important to get the right equipment the first time.

Handcycles are an alternative to bicycles for people who are unable to pedal using their legs. There is a variety of styles and features, but they basically fit into three styles: upright, wheelchair add-ons, and recumbent. Upright models look like the back of a manual wheelchair with a single drive wheel out in front. The add-ons actually allow you to use your wheelchair and have a drive wheel that clamps onto the chair. The recumbents are longer and low to the ground, and you sit with your legs straight out on either side of the drive wheel. All three styles use components similar to those on bicycles. You use your arms to “pedal” a crank in front of your chest, and a chain goes to the front wheel to drive the cycle. The number of gears ranges from three to thirty-six. Most models turn by using the same crank to steer but a few allow you to lean to turn more like a bicycle.

"Cycling is an activity that can be enjoyed by people with disabilities together with their able-bodied friends and family."
Tricycles are for people who can pedal with their legs but cannot ride a bicycle due to limited balance or the need for more trunk support. Some models can be equipped to provide custom seating systems that give the rider extra stability. Tricycles also come in upright or recumbent styles, and, as with the handcycles, the upright versions are easier to get in and out of but are not as efficient for riding.

With the help of the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, the Ann Arbor CIL has expanded our Assistive Technology program to include adapted cycling equipment. We will have a variety of styles and sizes of handbikes and adult tricycles available for people to try out for themselves before making a buying decision. As a rehabilitation engineer and experienced handcyclist, I will be available to discuss the options with clients and help them think through their choices. We will be able to refer buyers to experienced dealers who can help them complete their purchase.

The Ann Arbor CIL is starting regular group rides and compiling a list of experienced riders who will be willing to talk about their equipment and answer questions from people who are just getting started. Potential buyers will be able to use our cycles to participate in the group rides to be sure they understand how the many options impact their riding enjoyment. There is no substitute for time on the road when comparing models. Our rides will be a little less intense than those offered by existing bike clubs and will be open to everyone, regardless of experience, ability, or disability. Cycling is an activity that can be enjoyed by people with disabilities together with their able-bodied friends and family.

Adapted recreation equipment is considered assistive technology, so the Michigan AT Loan Fund (see article on page 11) can be used to purchase adapted cycling equipment for qualified people.
Cheryl Terpening Frueh, the owner and operator of Mobile Eyes, has worked for 22 years in the visual field of Ophthalmology. She has been an occupational therapist (OT) since 1995, all in low vision services. Cheryl worked at the Kellogg Eye Center from 1984–2005. She is also a consultant for VisionCare in California and wrote the rehab portion for the extended trial for the implantable miniature telescope. This device is similar to the bioptic external lenses; however, this is a permanently implanted lens.

VisionCare is currently evaluating the Implantable Miniature Telescope (IMT™ by Dr. Isaac Lipshitz) in a Phase II/III multi-center trial in the United States. The trial is designed to establish the safety and efficacy of the device in patients with moderate to profound central vision impairment due to stable age-related macular degeneration or Stargardt's disease affecting both eyes. The research trial will last two years. For more information on this topic, please check out www.Visioncareinc.net

Through various community conversations, Cheryl developed the idea for converting an accessible bus into a vehicle carrying low vision aides. This idea became Mobile Eyes, the mobile vision store. With support from her friends and colleagues, Mobile Eyes became an additional service for people who have low vision.

If you need help with daily tasks because of visual impairments, call Mobile Eyes. This is a service dedicated to helping people with visual impairments and others live happy and independent lives in Michigan. Cheryl can work with individuals, families, and groups. She visits independent living centers, apartments, assisted living centers, and private homes.

"This is a service dedicated to helping people with visual impairments and others live happy and independent lives in Michigan."
With Mobile Eyes, consumers get the opportunity to try equipment and see if it is the right type for them. Mobile Eyes has a multitude of adaptive devices and equipment for those who need help seeing the world around them. Cheryl brings adaptive choices right to your door. She carries items such as self-threading sewing needles, large print materials, closed caption TVs, check registers, writing guides, and magnifiers — and if she doesn’t carry it, she will look for it and/or refer the consumer to an appropriate resource. This is also the case for any ophthalmic changes and consumer medical needs. If you purchase from her, Cheryl will then train you on the use of that equipment. Mobile Eyes can be your one-stop shopping source for everything you might need to help you perform all your daily tasks. The experts at Mobile Eyes are there to answer your questions.

Cheryl offers hands-on experience with various assistive technologies (AT) devices. There is no charge for time, just for fuel. i.e., 30 miles = $30, and Cheryl will spend 1 to 1-1/2 hours with consumers to make sure that the item is working for them once received. She carries stock with her, and consumers can usually have the item they choose on the spot.

Cheryl can also be hired as an outpatient OT. She will come to people’s homes to help them adjust, make adaptations in their homes, and learn to live independently with their visual changes.

Cheryl is respected and well known in the community and by organizations as she offers unique home services for people to comfortably make choices to further their independence. Margaret Wolfe and Sonia Matthews, from Washtenaw County LBPD, partner with Cheryl, in Doing More with Less, an ongoing program to promote high and low tech services for people with disabilities. Margaret Wolfe states, “Cheryl’s passion and commitment to her clients is unmatched. She provides the means for low vision individuals to retain personal independence in their daily lives and in the community.”

You can view the Mobile Eyes website to see many of the products Cheryl carries at http://www.mobile-eyes-lowvision.com/. Mobile Eyes may also be contacted at 734-216-5778.
There Is Always SOMETHING NEW in AT!

BY GLEN ASHLOCK, MS, ATP

There is always something new in the field of Assistive Technology (AT). Keeping up with the array of new products is one of the most challenging parts of my career. Products and companies appear and disappear and get absorbed into new devices or larger companies. A lot of what is new is just old ideas made better, smaller, faster, and often less expensive. Here are a few trends and new products I have “discovered” recently.

One trend is to integrate accessibility into mainstream products. Many accessibility features have been included in Windows and the Macintosh operating systems for years without people knowing about them. These include adaptations to keyboard timing, simple magnifiers, and on-screen keyboards. These accessories are not generally as complete as commercial products, but they get better with each new upgrade. The new version of Windows is expected to have a voice recognition system that will rival Naturally Speaking®, the current leader in the field.

With the introduction of laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and a national population with an increasing average age, the call for improved accessibility to products has reduced the need for customization. Universal design is a term used to describe a way of building things that makes them easier for everyone to use. Routinely making labels and buttons larger, including captioning on DVDs, and making new homes easy to modify for wheelchair use are examples of more accessible design we see more frequently now. Equipment and access methods that make life easier for people with disabilities generally are easier to use for people of all abilities. Many items we used to think of as AT such as curb cuts, lever door handles, and remote controls are no longer considered adapted due to their common use and convenience for everyone.
It may not always seem like it when we are trying to find the cash, but lower prices with better performance is another trend in the field. It wasn’t very long ago that we bought the first voice recognition system for $5,000. It needed an expensive high end computer, words had to be spoken individually with a long pause between each one, and it took over an hour to do the initial training. The results were not that great, but it was great for those who needed it despite the challenges. Now Naturally Speaking costs less than $200, a user can be enrolled in minutes, and you can talk at your normal speed with better results. As computer capabilities improve, adapted access methods and augmentative communication systems will have more functionality and reliability.

A couple of new things really caught my attention at the RESNA conference exhibit hall. Magic Wheels™ are two-speed manual wheelchair wheels that don’t use motors or batteries. They allow the user to easily shift gears to go up and down ramps and hills and across uneven or rough terrain. They can be adapted to most manual wheelchairs without making the chair any wider. This should help people who may not need to use a power wheelchair full time, to improve their independence with mobility. More information is available at www.magicwheels.com.

The Life Vest™ is an effective, low-tech device that makes it easier to support someone who needs help walking or help them stand up from a chair or get off the ground. It is a rugged vest with handles in multiple positions that provide a secure grip for the care giver. The multiple positions give the care giver a good angle from any position putting both people at less risk of injury. The design distributes pressure so that the wearer is comfortable throughout the transfer. Anyone who has ever been “helped” from falling by having the back of their pants grabbed will appreciate this product!

Minomech continued its trend of coming up with clever and inexpensive solutions to common computer access and environmental control needs. MyMage® is a Windows-based application that allows users to create custom “remotes” to control computer functions and software. When used with environmental control software and hardware, the remotes can turn on lights, control entertainment systems, and open doors. This approach allows users to adapt the interface to their specific needs for ease of use. MyMage can be used from the keyboard, mouse, or with most other access methods. The range of products Minomech makes can be seen at www.minomech.com.
By Angie Carlson, AmeriCorps VISTA Team Member

Through a partnership with the Michigan Commission for the Blind, I traveled to Kalamazoo to the Michigan Commission for the Blind Training School. The training school is designed to teach those who are newly blind, or those who might need some additional practice living with their disability, to do many everyday tasks. Tasks may include anything from getting dressed in the morning, to cooking a meal or using a computer independently. The purpose of my visit was to learn how to use the screen-reading software called JAWS® (Jobs Access with Speech).

JAWS is a piece of software that helps the user navigate throughout a computer program and read the contents of the screen. During my four-day experience at the school, I learned how to use several programs in conjunction with JAWS, such as: Windows XP, the Internet browser Internet Explorer, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel.

This was an intense time because I realized how much I currently rely on my eyes to give me information. I also got to see not only what it was like to use a computer “without eyes,” but also what it was like for a blind person to live everyday life. The experience helped me get a better sense of what my computer students who are blind might be feeling when they are learning to use a computer with the support of the JAWS program.

Because of my new skills, the CIL will be offering training for students and volunteers with low vision on the software Zoom Text and the equipment in the Assistive Technology Center. Together, these aids give people who are blind or have a visual impairment the freedom to use a computer independently. For more information on the classes or about JAWS or Zoom Text training, please contact Angie Carlson via e-mail at acarlson@aacil.org.

"Together, these aids give people who are blind or have a visual impairment the freedom to use a computer independently."
ANN ARBOR OFFICE

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IL/VR Counselor

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Calisa Reid
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Melissa Sartori
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Mary Stack
VISTA/Sports & Recreation Specialist

Lundie Swann
VISTA/WTE Outreach Coordinator

Natasha Tolchinsky
Accountant

Rick Weir
MicroEnterprise Works Manager

Edward Wollmann
AmeriCorps VISTA/Supervisor

Jeanine Wright
Data Collection Specialist

MONROE OFFICE

Gary Dygert
Information & Referral Specialist

Linda Maier
IL & VR Consultant/Monroe Manager

Kelly Meadows
VISTA/Resource Specialist

Mark Rawlings
VISTA/Computer Instruction

Not pictured: Rob Benninger, Lundie Swann, Becky Munce, Dan Durci & Kimberlie Sherman
We have been and will continue to be innovators who ACT!

Amplify – When discrimination occurs, we amplify the experience and personal voice, locally and in the halls of Congress.

Connect – When people with disabilities face barriers, we connect them to new opportunities and resources

Transform – When a person with a disability chooses a path toward independence, we transform one life at a time

Now There are Two New Ways That You Can ACT

1. – Join the TRANSFORMATION SOCIETY

Transformation Society Members are everyday people who, through a generous act of leadership, invoke the true spirit of the Independent Living Movement. They are people who are committed to helping the Ann Arbor CIL transform one life in one year.

Joining the CIL Transformation Society is a valuable investment in our disability community. $1,083 is the average cost of providing life-transforming services for one person for one year on his or her journey toward greater independence. FOUNDING MEMBERSHIP reflects a $1,083 investment, renewable annually.

To Transform One Life in One Year, We…

- Provide Peer Support
- Organize Inclusive Social and Recreation Programs
- Support Transition from a Nursing Home – Back Home
- Provide Assistive Technology Services
- Coordinate the Washtenaw Talent Exchange
- Offer Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling
- Conduct Disability Awareness Seminars
- Remain a Meeting Ground for the Disability Community
- Connect People with Opportunities and Resources
- Provide Youth Mentorship Opportunities
- Develop the Independent Living Skills of Self-Direction
- Teach Computer and Internet Skills
- Provide Employment Assistance
- Help People Launch Micro-Enterprises
- Support Individual and Systems Advocacy
Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,
Please join us today!

2. – Join the INNOVATION SOCIETY

Three of our founding disability advocates: John Weir, Corki McCorkle and Jack Butler, were true innovators. Their ground-breaking vision created Michigan’s first Center for Independent Living in Ann Arbor, the fourth of now over 700 in the United States and around the world! They knew from personal experience that they could not ride a bus, go to school or church, to city hall or the post office, enter a place of employment, fly on an airplane, use public restrooms or cross a street without facing overwhelming physical or attitudinal barriers. They knew they needed an organization filled with their ground-breaking ideas, led and staffed by a majority of people with disabilities who would create access to the same opportunities that people without disabilities have.

That will sustain the CIL’s great history of ground-breaking initiatives: by making a bequest in their will, assigning life insurance, or exploring other options.

Founding membership in the Innovation Society invests in tomorrow’s CIL and reflects a one-time planned gift commitment of $25,000 or more.

We guarantee your legacy will be used to create new, innovative, ground-breaking services that improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.

Please join us today!

Exploring membership in either The Transformation or Innovation Society only takes a few minutes.

For more information call: 734 971 0277
Jim Magyar (ext. 20) • jmagyar@aacil.org • Tom Hoatlin (ext. 18) • thoatlin@aacil.org
Students with disabilities are strongly encouraged to request and utilize the accommodations available through the Access Services Office (ASO) in room 203 of King Hall.

Letters requesting accommodations are available through the ASO and should be provided to instructors at the beginning of each semester.

Eastern Michigan University is committed to diversity and to the success of students with disabilities. The mission of the Access Services Office is to make education at EMU fully accessible, opening the door of opportunity to all students.
Stephanie is 45 years old, has a lot of skills, wants to work and has a disability. Stephanie has a lot in common with over 8,840 other persons in Washtenaw County. These 8,840 Washtenaw residents aged 16 to 64 years are disabled like Stephanie, and they are also unemployed. So let’s imagine for a minute these 8,800 people all lived in the same city. This city would be larger than Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Milan and the City of Saline. But, while these good folks don’t all live in the same city, persons with disabilities do have the highest unemployment rate of any group in the USA. In Washtenaw County, for example, the 17,000 persons with disabilities ages 16 to 64 years have a staggering unemployment rate of almost 68%! In a time marked by critical demand for labor in Washtenaw County, it is discouraging that members of our largest minority, persons with disabilities, are not participating in our local economy to the same extent as persons without disabilities. The fact is we need them!

So what is the problem? It’s not because the jobs are not here. Washtenaw County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the USA. Our county also has a labor shortage, so we need all the good help we can get. The problem is that employer attitudes toward persons with disabilities are an important factor in the extremely high unemployment rate of persons with disabilities. There is increasing research, such as “Employer Attitudes Towards People With Disabilities in the Workplace,” by Darlene D. Unger, that points to the idea that employers have mixed feelings about the idea of hiring persons with disabilities.

Some studies, most of which examined the attitudes of employers with regard to their overall attitudes about persons with disabilities, were generally positive. Other research, much of which focused on specific employer attitudes such as their intent to hire persons with disabilities, were more negative. Overall, the majority of the research studies showed there is a discrepancy between employer attitudes regarding the employment of persons with disabilities as a matter of principle, and employers’ willingness to hire persons with disabilities for their own business operations.

The reasons given for these employer concerns were many. One study indicated that six out of ten human resource directors had concerns that people with disabilities did not have the appropriate skills needed for the workplace. Other studies concluded that employers were concerned that persons with disabilities did not possess the appropriate work-related ‘soft skills’ needed, such as an ability to benefit from instruction, work-role acceptance and work tolerance. Other research indicated that employers had reservations about the overall promotability of persons with disabilities.

Continued on page 28
"It is discouraging that members of our largest minority, persons with disabilities, are not participating in our local economy to the same extent as persons without disabilities."

Other studies pointed out that employers were concerned about the possible cost of disability-related accommodations as mandated by the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). But this is one area in which employer attitudes have improved over the years. Assistive Technology (AT) has helped to increase the employability of persons with disabilities significantly. Devices range in costs, sophistication and universal application. As in the case with a simple telephone, models are available with large buttons, volume control or a headset that can assist an individual's productivity at his or her workstation. Other simple AT can include a talking calculator, a “lazy susan” file holder, a cook’s can opener that can be used with one hand, and others. Research has shown that AT accommodations need not be expensive. Twenty-nine percent of accommodations made by employers cost less than $100, with 75% of accommodations costing less than $500.

If employer attitudes are a major barrier for persons with disabilities getting good jobs, can we make a difference? Very much so! Employer attitudes are an important factor in persons with disabilities becoming employed, but other research has shown the course of action that a person with disabilities takes plays a more critical part in finding and keeping a decent job. Here are four proven courses of action that can help us in getting connected with the workplace.

First, studies have shown that employers are more predisposed to hire persons with disabilities after they have had contact with us. The more contact they have had with persons with disabilities, the more predisposed they are to hire us. In practical terms, this means we need to get connected with local employers through informational interviews. Informational interviews are essentially fact-finding meetings where we learn about a certain business and the variety of work opportunities that reside within. Informational interviews are also great for building relationships between persons with disabilities and prospective employers. So if you’re a person with a disability who wants to work, interview, interview and interview!

Second, other research has shown that employers had more positive attitudes about persons with disabilities who were referred to them by their local Vocational Rehabilitation agency. Employers felt the presence of a state agency would ensure that long-term supports and accommodations would readily be provided (at no charge to them) in the eventuality that accommodations were needed. So if you want to increase your chances for getting hired, get connected with your local Vocational Rehabilitation agency.
The third piece of advice is to network, says Tom Morris, of Morris Associates based in Washington, D.C. is one of the country’s leading career counselors for persons with disabilities. Tom suggests that networking with relatives, friends and neighbors creates a win-win situation for getting a good job. Networking will bring exposure—you increase the probability of getting job leads if you talk to a large number of people. You also get good information—asking questions during an informational interview will generate priceless career information for you. Networking also brings you referrals—asking people to recommend other people they know will add major dividends to your career development strategies.

Finally, consider that smaller might be better. Local, small businesses are generally more accessible when it comes to getting interviews. So when you do get an interview, it’s usually with the business owner, or other upper-level manager. This means a lot in terms of building positive relationships, especially in light of the fact that we discovered employers were more positively inclined to hire persons with disabilities after they have met with them. Another positive aspect of small businesses for persons with disabilities is they tend to be more interested in the tax credits associated with hiring persons with disabilities.

To sum it up: Yes, some employers have mixed feelings about hiring persons with disabilities. But if you’re a person with a disability who wants to work, your job is to find employers who want to work with you. Get connected with your local vocational rehabilitation agency. Employers like that. Meet with as many employers as possible, again and again. Show an interest in what the businesses do and ask lots of questions. That’s how we develop relationships. Employers are people too, and people like to work with people they know. The more people you know, the better your chances of getting a good job. So build your network and start today. Try connecting with smaller, local businesses. Business owners of smaller companies are more apt to meet with you. This will greatly increase your chances for getting that good job.

Finally, when you get up in the morning, dream a little. Think about the job you really want and say to yourself, “If it’s going to be, it’s up to me…”

For assistance with career networking contact Kathy Herron at 734/971-0277 or kherron@aacil.org.
What is a Center for Independent Living, or CIL, where did the idea come from, and what does it have to do with my life? These questions may be on your mind as you consider your involvement with the Ann Arbor CIL. Our Independent Living (IL) Orientation provides an opportunity to learn about the CIL and to explore the idea of Independent Living from both historical and current perspectives.

During our IL Orientation we discuss the truths held forth by CILs around the country that all people have gifts and talents to contribute in our communities, and that as we work together to increase access, awareness, and inclusion in our society, those of us with disabilities have more opportunities to offer our gifts. A second concept we explore is peer support – people with disabilities helping, mentoring, and challenging others with disabilities to reach toward the fulfillment of their potential and their dreams. Finally, we review current services, activities, and opportunities to become involved with the Ann Arbor CIL as customer, volunteer, donor, board member, or member of our staff.

Packets are provided containing further information about the CIL, some specific disabilities, and forms to use to become involved in various CIL opportunities. Each Orientation participant is offered a session with IL Orientation Leader Peg Ball, a Certified Life Coach, who coaches the participants in the development of their own IL Plan or on some other topic of their choice.

"Our Independent Living (IL) Orientation provides an opportunity to learn about the CIL."

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Anyone new to the Ann Arbor CIL
- Anyone considering involvement with the Ann Arbor CIL
- Anyone who wants to know more about the history and philosophy of the Independent Living Movement
- Anyone who has a disability or who has a relative, friend, co-worker, client, associate, or neighbor with a disability

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

IL Orientation is held once or twice each month, usually on a Tuesday afternoon. It lasts about two hours. For those unable to attend a daytime session, an evening IL Orientation can be scheduled upon request. To register for an upcoming IL Orientation, contact Al Ball, Administrative Assistant, Program Services at 734-971-0277 ext. 52 or by e-mail at aball@aacil.org. Be sure to mention any accommodations you may need, such as materials in alternate format, an interpreter, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Need more information or have some questions before you sign up? Contact Coach Peg directly at 734-975-1504 or by e-mail at pegball@aacil.org.
One Person’s Assistive Technology Experience…

Leads to a COUNTY of EXPERIENCED USERS

BY CAROLYN GRAWI, AACIL Director of Advocacy & Education

What does assistive technology (AT) do for you? AT gives individuals power and independence in their lives. AT also assists the community at large, as it often makes life better for everyone. AT further assists the community to allow people with disabilities to function as contributing members of society.

Here is one individual’s story, a person who has not only used AT to be successful in life, but is the “county’s expert” on many forms of technology and has helped many to master technology and be successful themselves.

When I began to develop ideas to be addressed in this article I had a conversation with an Information Technologist named Jim Knox. He said, “When someone has a JAWS® (Jobs Access with Speech) question he refers them to Nick Wilcox, the county expert. I haven’t met anyone who knows JAWS better than him”. JAWS is a text-to-speech program for the computer for people who do not have eyesight.

"The standard response when there is a question about technology, is 'Ask Nick!'"
So who is Nick Wilcox? Nick is an individual who has been fully blind from birth. He was adopted from Korea by an Ann Arbor family in 1978 when he was very young. He began working with adaptive equipment from a young age in junior high school. He reports working with teachers and being told, “Here is some equipment [JAWS and a computer, both in boxes], and you are welcome to try.” He was allowed to begin interacting with the new technology on his own. He then reports teaching both staff and a fellow student how the systems worked. His wife, Terri, says, “He is so intelligent that the school system had Nick learn to function independently and teach himself and another visually impaired student [to use AT equipment].” He has been the consultant and trainer for the Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (LBPD) since 1997 as the JAWS expert. Nick is an excellent trainer. As he works with individuals, he allows training to be very self-directed. That is, if an individual has a particular interest, Nick helps him or her to explore that interest by doing web searches with JAWS. With Nick’s assistance, people are able to learn to do word processing with JAWS and Microsoft Word. Nick has also helped people learn to check and send email using Outlook Express and JAWS.

Nick’s philosophy is to let the student direct what each computer lesson addresses. He also helps people navigate forms and dropdown combo boxes on websites using JAWS. The success of Nick’s Internet lessons with computer users who are completely blind often depends upon how accessible websites are. Nick is excellent at being able to decipher what a button means, even when it is not clearly marked by a web designer.

Nick is also very good at assisting individuals with Kurzweil. With this program, students can scan printed materials and take audio versions away with them on CDs. Nick is very good with his hands. He is always feeling and exploring objects and has an excellent mind for how things work and how they are constructed. He is good at diagnosing and fixing problems with the workings of JAWS and how it functions with the computer.

When I have had questions myself about various types of equipment, I have also been referred to Nick for the answers by Sonia Matthews at the LBPD. His individual skills related to AT and IT led Nick to obtain a bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems from Eastern Michigan University in 2003.

Nick also works at Washtenaw Community College (WCC) in the Learning Support Services Office, helping students and the office staff with adaptive equipment and computers. He is available to convert text to Braille. He assists all students who need help with adaptive equipment and helps to scan books so students who need auditory versions of books can be successful in the classroom. This service is used by students who have vision impairments, learning disabilities, and physical disabilities.

Nick works as needed at LBPD two to four hours per week, depending on consumer demand. He also works at WCC ten hours per week during the fall/winter terms and 5 hours per week in the spring/summer terms.

Nick is very under-employed despite having a college degree in computers. He is working very few hours for both WCC and LBPD. This extreme under-employment is something that is very common among people who have disabilities. Nick desires to work more but has not found a position that utilizes his technological abilities and where others will accept his use of accommodations.

So for now Nick is the person whom people with disabilities (especially those who have visual impairment or blindness) go to when they need assistance. The standard response when there is a question about technology is “Ask Nick!” You too can reach Nick through the LBPD at 734-973-4350.
The Center for Independent Living extends our sincere appreciation to the participants of this News Feature and Resource Directory. By participating, they have made a financial commitment to the people we reach every day. We are grateful for the businesses and organizations that have been a part of this publication for many years. We especially welcome and thank all of the new community partners found in this year’s magazine. Please patronize these generous organizations.

ACCESSIBILITY

Cornerstone Design Inc
940 N. Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 663-7580
www.cdiarchitects.com

Cornerstone Design provides creative, responsive architectural services for all types of projects. A particular specialty is universal design for people of all ages and abilities. Firm principal, David Esau, AIA, also consults on accessibility issues through the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living.

Metro Bath
4477 Jackson Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 222-4675
www.metroluxurybath.com or www.adabath.com

Metro Bath Independent Living Home Improvement Services offer a range of choices that provide dignity and freedom for our customers. Our free in home safety analysis will provide functional and aesthetic solutions that work. Our experience will make sure you have the accessibility and equipment to function independently. Live better, live easier, and call us today.

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PO Box 970560
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 482-0606 or (888) 694-4040

OEI Construction is an experienced team of designers, builders and therapists committed to evaluating and customizing your home for maximum independence. Our specialty is creating barrier free and accessible living environments. OEl’s employs physical therapy, occupational therapy, new home design, architecture, construction and project management professionals to assist with all your home modification needs.

Phoenix Contractors, Inc.
2111 Golfside
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 487-9640
(734) 547-0432 Fax
www.phoenixco.biz

Phoenix Contractors, Inc. is a general contractor and construction manager with extensive experience in modification of existing commercial and institutional buildings for full accessibility, particularly in multi-story structures. Phoenix works regularly with area architects and can provide design-build services for renovation of existing or development of new commercial buildings.

Ten Penny Construction LLC
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(734) 455-4325
(800) 361-7142

Ten Penny Construction is a family-owned and operated business with over 70 years combined experience. As a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist, we have special training in the unique needs of the older population and people with disabilities. We offer a wide variety of barrier-free renovations to help make your home fit your needs. Call us today for a consultation and estimate!

ADVOCACY

Association for Community Advocacy
1100 N. Main, Suite 205
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-1256

ACA, in partnership with consumers, works to assure personal choice, self-determination and opportunities for full participation in all aspects of community life for persons with disabilities. ACA has recognized expertise in entitlements, special education and criminal justice advocacy, home ownership, community organizing, systems change, and person-centered planning.

Michigan Ability Partners
3810 Packard, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 975-6880

Michigan Ability Partners is an Ann Arbor-based, private, non-profit human service agency that helps persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness by accessing and/or providing shelter, food, medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, affordable housing and community employment throughout Southeastern Michigan.
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
740 West Lake Lansing Rd., Suite 400
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 333-2477
www.copower.org

The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition: Your Partner in Building Freedom. MDRC is a statewide network of individuals and organizations that advance the issues of Michigan’s disability community through grassroots activism, public education and advocacy. MDRC works to build opportunities for people with disabilities so that we may live fully integrated lives within our chosen communities.

United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit
23077 Greenfield Rd. Suite 205
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 557-5070
www.ucpdetroit.org

Our Mission is to advance the independence of all people with disabilities and to secure their right to self-determination and inclusion, i.e. “Life without limits for people with disabilities.” UCP/Detroit provides information and referral services, employment programs (Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach Project, Customized Employment), individual and family support services (Advocacy, Assistive Technology and Parent Coalition), community inclusion and independent living supports and community education.

Wild Swan Theater
(734) 995-0530
www.wildswantheater.org

Wild Swan Theater, Michigan’s finest professional theater for families, delights, engages, and moves 50,000 audience members each year. We offer many accessibility measures for audience members with disabilities: excellent access and seating for those using wheelchairs or other mobility devices; American Sign Language interpreting; and audio-description and backstage “touch tours” for patrons who are blind. Highlights of our 8 production season include The Christmas Carol (Dec. 13–17), Roland the Minstrel Pig (March 22–24) and Twelfth Night (May 2–6). All performances are at Towsley Auditorium, Washtenaw Community College. For full schedule, tickets, and access information: (734) 995-0530 or www.wildswantheater.org.

Assistance Dog Organizations

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc.
8806 State Route 64
Swanton, OH 43558
(419) 825-3622
(419) 825-3710 Fax
www.adai.org
info@adai.org

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. (ADAI) helps disabled children and adults living within a 250-mile radius of Northwest Ohio achieve greater independence by training and placing highly skilled service and therapy dogs. From children with muscular dystrophy and spina bifida to adults with cerebral palsy and spinal cord injuries, ADAI service dogs provide their owners with greater independence and self-confidence. ADAI dogs retrieve items, activate switches, provide balance, pull wheelchairs, open doors, cupboards and refrigerators, and much more. ADAI’s therapy dogs offer comfort and companionship to persons in nursing homes, hospice, schools and individuals with autism and Down’s Syndrome.

The Ark
316 S. Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 761-1800 Office
(734) 761-1451 Hotline
www.theark.org

The Ark is a non-profit music venue located on Main Street in Ann Arbor between Liberty and William Streets. Founded in 1965, The Ark is dedicated to the presentation, preservation, and encouragement of folk, roots, and ethnic music. The Ark is wheelchair accessible and works to accommodate any special seating needs. Please note that the club doors open 1/2 hour before a performance. If someone in your party has a wheelchair or special seating needs, we recommend coming slightly earlier and ringing the doorbell located next to our front entry doors so we can seat your party prior to entry of the general public. This way we can assure adjacent seating for your friends and family. We request that you call us if you need early entry or if you have any seating concerns at (734) 761-1800 between 9 am-5 pm

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Wayland, MI 49348
(800) 253-PAWS (7297)
www.pawswithacause.org
paws@pawswithacause.org

Paws With A Cause trains Assistance Dogs nationally for people with disabilities and provides lifetime team support, which encourages independence. PAWS promotes awareness through education. For more information, please call us or visit our website.

BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION

Brain Injury Association of Michigan
8619 W. Grand River, Suite I
Brighton, MI 48116-2334
(810) 229-5880
(800) 772-4323
Website: www.biami.org
E-Mail: info@biami.org

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan is a non-profit organization that brings together people with brain injury, families, friends, and professionals to improve the quality of life for people living with brain injury.

More than 25 years ago, a group of concerned families, living with brain injury founded the Association to ensure that needed services and supports were available for people with brain injuries and their families. The Association is a chartered affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America.

Our mission is to enhance the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups; and to reduce the incidence of brain injury through prevention.

BrainTrainers, LLC
2900 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 665 1922
Email: Director@BrainTrainersOnline.com

BrainTrainers is one of only a handful of full-time day programs based upon a time-proven holistic small-group model, and the only program of its type in Michigan. Now successfully providing its 7th year of semester-based treatment, it has become the model of choice for referrals from a growing number of physicians, case managers, and other professionals. Treatment encompasses cognitive and interpersonal skills, vocational development, and functional treatment. Assessments are provided throughout the year. All therapy is individualized to maximize client skills and compensate for targeted deficits. Focused individual services include Psychology, Vocational Training, Occupational Therapy, Home Evaluation, Community Education, and individual case consultation.

Eisenhower Center
3200 E. Eisenhower Pkwy.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(800) 554-5543
Email: ectbi@earthlink.net

Eisenhower Center provides neurorehabilitation services in a state-of-the-art residential setting. We assist our clients in reaching their fullest potential in an environment that combines hard work and commitment to treatment. Our services include a variety of recreational and therapeutic activities that encourage effective socialization and community integration.

Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.
Corporate Offices/Treatment Center
5570 Whittaker Rd. PO Box 970230
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 482-1200 or (800) 968-6644
www.rainbowrehab.com
admissions@rainbowrehab.com

Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers provides rehabilitation services to individuals who have experienced a spinal cord or traumatic brain injury. Rainbow’s continuum of care allows individuals with injuries to achieve their highest potential in the least restrictive, most independent setting possible. Our professional, specialty trained staff consistently provides understanding, supportive and progressive rehabilitation at every stage of the recovery process. Residential, day treatment and outpatient services are available for adults and children in locations throughout Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

ResCare Premier
Residential Rehabilitation Continuum
(734) 476-6152

ResCare Premier’s Residential Rehabilitation Continuum is dedicated solely to the treatment of individuals with acquired brain injury. Our Comprehensive Continuum offers affordable services that foster exceptional outcomes for persons with intensive rehabilitation needs and for individuals with behavioral issues.

The Residential Rehabilitation Continuum incorporates traditional therapies into functional, community-based skill training. It is specifically designed to provide the concentrated life skills training so vital to regaining autonomy and re-establishing quality, productive lifestyles.

Individuals may be admitted to any program along the Continuum. Our Continuum allows individuals to transition to more independent settings, stop along the way to fully integrate newly acquired skills, or step back to practice challenging tasks. This continuity ensures that progress is never interrupted.

Special Tree Rehabilitation System
39000 Chase Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174
(800) 648-6885
www.specialtree.com

Since 1974, Special Tree has been one of Michigan’s leading resources for sub-acute rehabilitation, inpatient, residential, outpatient, and in-home neurorehabilitation services. A CARF- and JCAHO-accredited provider, Special Tree serves the needs of children and adults with brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and other disabilities.
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2900 South State Street, Suite 22
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-665-1922 ph 734-665-1923 fx
www.BrainTrainersOnline.com

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ANN ARBOR CHAPTER
BIAMI SUPPORT GROUPS

www.biami.org
info@biami.org

Chapter Contact
Jim Briggs
(734) 668-6404

Meeting
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www.AssistiveMedia.org
info@assistivemedia.org

Assistive Media is the only service on the Web that delivers spoken-word recordings of traditional print media for people who have difficulty reading text because of a visual, physical, or perceptual disability.

With a recording studio located within the AACIL, Assistive Media focuses on reproducing titles from highly regarded periodicals (The New Yorker, Harper’s, Wired, Scientific American, Atlantic Monthly, The Economist, Civilization, Foreign Affairs, Smithsonian, The Ann Arbor Observer, and more) and independent writers, providing an eclectic mixture of interesting and educational works of non-fiction, essays, social commentary, history, fiction, humor, poetry, and criticism. Assistive Media’s free online service is located at www.AssistiveMedia.org.

COUNSELING

Jan Hansen, Ph.D.
101 S. Ann Arbor St., Suite 203A
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-4244

Licensed psychologist based in Murphy’s Crossing in Saline with extensive experience providing psychological counseling to individuals living with a head injury, cancer, stroke, or other disabilities. Dealing with adjustment, self-acceptance, and working with feelings of confusion, anxiety, and depression are very important in recovery. Marital and family counseling and group counseling are also available.

DENTISTRY

Maryann Griffith, D.D.S.
2340 East Stadium Blvd., Suite 6
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 973-3200

Dr. Griffith has been providing gentle dental care for toddlers, senior citizens and every age in between for the last 16 years. Services include preventative dental cleanings, periodontal treatment, crowns and bridges, cosmetic dentistry, “white fillings”, Zoom TM bleaching system, orthodontics and more, all in a friendly atmosphere. Her barrier-free office is located between St. Francis and Trader Joe’s on East Stadium Blvd.

DRIVING AIDS AND SERVICES

A&A Driving School – Drivers Rehabilitation Center of Michigan
28911 Seven Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48152
(734) 422-3000
www.aa-driving.com

Motor safety and mobility have been our goals since 1959. Evaluations and trainings take place in automobiles or vans with a variety of adaptive equipment. Individualized programs for persons with physical, visual, cognitive and/or emotional disabilities are available. Our highly specialized staff are ADED-certified driver rehabilitation specialists and include occupational therapists, special educators, and certified driving instructors.

Advantage Mobility Outfitters
3990 Second St.
Wayne, MI 48184
(800) 990-8267
www.advantagemobility.net

Advantage Mobility Outfitters provides high quality sales and service of new and used vehicles and modifications such as wheelchair and scooter lifts, hand controls, raised roofs and doors, and more. With many options to meet your needs, Advantage develops custom mobility solutions for all types and brands of vans, cars, and RVs. We offer pick-up and delivery service, and a mobile repair unit that can be dispatched right to your home or business. With top-notch sales, service, and repair, Advantage has served the Ann Arbor and Metro-Detroit communities for more than 25 years.
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Christian Roux, Ltd.
561 Woodlawn Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(734) 483-7350
(734) 483-7350 Fax
hccroux@ameritech.net

Hurri-Cane/Crutch is the first ergonomically designed aircraft aluminum crutch with the custom Grip Tip™. It is the strongest, lightest and most adjustable walking aid built today and only weighs 27 ounces. The bend of the crutch centralizes the point of gravity, allowing people to walk upright and straight. A 90-degree rotatable open-arm cuff allows for quick detachment and eliminates underarm pressure. Because of its lightweight design and rotatable arm cuff, Hurri-Cane/Crutch conveniently hangs over the arm when not in use. The ergonomically designed downward tilted Switch Grip™ prevents inflammation in the tendons because it is a natural position for the hand to hold.

The Hurri-Cane/Crutch is adjustable by 1/2” increments and is able to accommodate the height range of children and adults up to 6’6” tall. It replaces the need for traditional small, medium and large sizing. A wide range of exciting colors are available with the Hurri-Cane/Crutch. Call today for a demonstration.

Christian Roux Ltd. and the Hurri/Cane-Crutch will be featured as a documentary on the international and national television program, Profiles hosted by Academy Award winner Louis Gossett, Jr. The program will run in late October, 2006 and can be seen on The Discovery Channel, the Patient Channel, the US Government’ Voice of America, CNN, and Fox News.

General Motors Mobility Program
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(800) 833-9935 TTY
www.gmmobility.com

You already have motivation. You need transportation. The General Motors Mobility Reimbursement Program can help you take full advantage of today’s personal transportation market. The GM Mobility Program reimburses up to $1,000 toward the cost of eligible adaptive equipment for drivers or passengers when installed in a new GM vehicle. SPECIAL OFFER: Customers who apply for and receive GM Mobility reimbursement on a new Chevrolet Uplander, Buick Terraza, or Saturn Relay will get two additional years of the OnStar Safe & Sound plan at no additional cost. For more information, visit gmmobility.com or call us at 1-800-323-9935.

Gresham Driving Aids
30800 Wixom Rd.
Wixom, MI 48393
(800) 521-8930

The leader in quality modified vehicles. Gresham Driving Aids, Inc., has serviced the disability community for over 38 years. Utilizing the latest technology from companies such as Ricon, Braun, Crow River, MPS and others, Gresham equips vehicles to maximize the abilities of their customers. Ask their many satisfied customers – your friends – then call Gresham for your mobility needs!

MobilityWorks
1965 East Avis
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(866) 885-8267
(248) 616-3004
www.mobilityworks.com

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**Fusion Medical**
802 Main St.
Essexville, MI 48732
(866) My-Fusion
www.fusionmedical.com

Fusion Medical is not just a medical supply company; it is a multi-level RESOURCE for people with spinal cord injuries. When you become part of the Fusion network, you will find new opportunities geared toward health, family, and fun. Fusion Medical’s family of collaborative organizations will keep you informed of community events, SCI seminars, adaptive sporting events, and innovative new products. In the process, we will provide you with the products you need, when you need them, hassle-free. At Fusion Medical, we focus on providing resources for the active lives of our customers, so that our customers can Focus On Living.

**MedEQUIP**
2850 S. Industrial, Suite 25
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 971-0975

MedEQUIP, part of the University of Michigan Health System, is a leader in home medical equipment, customized wheelchairs and respiratory care. We have highly skilled technicians and respiratory therapists to handle all your home medical equipment needs. MedEQUIP offers the resources of the University of Michigan at affordable prices.

**Quality Home Medical Equipment, Inc.**
1533 S. Wayne Rd.
Westland, MI 48186
(734) 721-4821
(734) 721-9866 Fax

Quality Home Medical Equipment Inc. is a new, family-owned company that is dedicated to providing our clients with prompt, professional care and assisting with all your home care needs. We offer a range of products including hospital beds, patient lifts, ambulatory aides, bathroom accessories and scooters. We specialize in wheelchairs – manual, power and standing chairs, with great emphasis on patients’ specific needs. Our seating and mobility specialist has over 10 years of experience, and we also have certified delivery techs and a caring reimbursement specialist. We offer delivery, set up and instruction in your home and a superior repair service for most equipment.

**Wright & Filippis**
3330 Washtenaw
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(800) 482-0222

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**EDUCATION**

**Ave Maria School of Law**
Services for Students with Disabilities
Student Affairs–Ave Maria School of Law
3475 Plymouth Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 827-8040
www.avemarialaw.edu

Throughout history, mankind has sought to implement justice through law. At the core of this effort is the search for truth with an emphasis on the inherent dignity of the human person. With these principles in mind, Ave Maria School of Law provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice law at the highest levels.

Ave Maria School of Law is located in a modern, accessible facility in northeast Ann Arbor. The Office for Student Affairs is committed to addressing the needs of students with disabilities to ensure that both the academic program and physical facilities are fully accessible, supporting the entry of persons with disabilities into the legal profession.

**Eastern Michigan University**
Access Services Office
Dean of Students Office
Eastern Michigan University
203 King Hall, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 487-2470
www.emich.edu/public/students/disab.html

The Access Services Office ensures that students with disabilities receive the accommodations they need to succeed in the classroom and participate in extracurricular activities, conducts educational programs for faculty, staff, and students that promote access and inclusion, and advocates for changes in policies and procedures that make the University a more welcoming and accessible environment for everyone.
U of M Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

G-664 Haven Hall
505 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045
(734) 763-3000
www.umich.edu/~sswd

SSD provides services to students with visual, mobility, or hearing impairments, learning or psychological disabilities, and chronic health problems. SSD helps facilitate such services as accessible campus transportation, adaptive technology, and sign language and oral interpreting. All services are free of charge.

SSD staff is available to answer questions and provide referrals concerning admission, registration, services available, financial aid, etc., before and during enrollment at the University. In addition, SSD can help assess the need for modified housing, attendants, transportation, classroom accommodations, and adaptive equipment.

Washtenaw Community College
Learning Support Services
4800 East Huron River Dr.
P. O. Box D-1
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
(734) 973-3342
(734) 973-3635 TDD

www.wccnet.org/studentresources/learningsupport/

Learning Support Services (LSS) provides the following services for students enrolled at WCC:

- Free tutoring is provided for all students enrolled in credit classes.
- Academic advising is available on an individual basis for academic needs.
- Services for students with documented disabilities include assistance with obtaining reasonable accommodations and use of specialized technology.
- Learning Disabilities Assessment: A free comprehensive assessment for enrolled students is available by a Learning Disability Specialist.

Contact us at (734) 973-3342 or stop by LA 104.

Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)

1819 S. Wagner
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1406
(734) 994-8100
www.wash.k12.mi.us

Washtenaw Intermediate School District coordinates/delivers programs/services to support continuous improvement of student achievement in the school districts of Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan, Saline, Whitmore Lake, Willow Run, Ypsilanti, and public school academies. Guided by Washtenaw County Common Expectations for Student Learning, this regional educational service agency:

- Provides school improvement consultation, assessment/curriculum/instruction assistance.
- Offers the latest educational training.
- Provides consultant/research assistance and resources.
- Coordinates programs/services too expensive or specialized for one school district to operate.
- Performs regulatory functions for the Michigan Department of Education.
- Coordinates/supports services for students from birth through age 26.

EMPLOYMENT/VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

McCormick Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.
2367 Science Pkwy., Suite 1 PO Box 763
Okemos, MI 48805-0763
(800) 347-5870

McCormick Rehabilitation Associates has provided comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Services for over 17 years in the Ann Arbor Area and the majority of Mid-Michigan's lower Peninsula. Services include individualized vocational counseling, assessment, testing, job/worksite modifications, coordination of training, job seeking skills training, job development/job placement assistance, and small business planning. Fees for services are primarily covered by approval from Auto Insurance, Workers' Compensation Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance or through special arrangement/approval from Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth

Michigan Rehabilitation Services
3810 Packard, Suite 170
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 677-1125

MDLEG-RS is a state- and federally-funded program which partners with persons with disabilities in preparing for, finding and maintaining employment. The goal is to provide comprehensive, coordinated, effective and efficient vocational rehabilitation services designed to assess, plan, and achieve vocational success consistent with the person's interests, priorities, strengths, abilities, capabilities and needs. There are MDLEG-RS offices located throughout the state, serving the employment needs and goals of people with a wide range of disabilities.
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- Asset Building Deposit Account – A unique savings product for graduates of the Building Your Financial Future literacy training that provides a premium interest rate.
- Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund - Providing loans to persons with disabilities and their families to purchase assistive technology devices and/or services.
- Michigan TeleWork loan fund – Providing loans to persons with disabilities to telework for an employer, prevent job loss, and initiate or expand self-employment.

For more information about the Assistive Technology or TeleWork Loan funds call UCP Michigan, the Loan Fund Administrator, at 1-800-828-2714, or visit the fund’s website at www.michiganloanfunds.org.

**KeyBank**
100 S. Main
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(800) KEY2YOU or (800) 539-2968
www.key.com

Key is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 1-(800) KEY2YOU to open accounts, transfer funds, apply for loans and more – all from the convenience of your home or office. Use Key’s ATMs to make deposits, transfer funds or withdraw cash. Many Key Centers feature barrier-free access for customers with special needs.

HEARING AIDS

**Fogarty Hearing Center**
269 Collingwood St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 662-8130

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(248) 615-1730
www.aegishp.com


New services added through Aegis Life Care, LLC, our newest affiliate: geriatric care management, alzheimer’s/dementia care, end of life care, community/wellness programs.

**Area Agency on Aging 1-B**
Livingston/Washtenaw County Access Office
3550 Liberty Rd., Suite 2
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(800) 852-7795
www.aaa1b.com

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B), a nonprofit organization, offers support, resources, services and information to assist older adults, persons with disabilities or their caregiver. Trained resource specialists will answer questions and connect individuals to more than 5,000 services and providers in southeast Michigan. The mission of the agency is to help older adults and persons with disabilities remain living in their homes or chosen place of residence for as long as possible. The AAA 1-B serves the counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw.

The Spinal Cord Injury Home Care Specialists
Michelle Kalous, RN • President/CEO
Phone (248) 615-1730 • Fax (248) 615-1830
Email: michelle@aegishp.com

Aegis Health Perspectives, Inc.
Woodwinds Office Center
20270 Middlebelt Road, Suite 1
Livonia, Michigan 48152
www.aegishp.com
Community Housing Alternatives

P.O. Box 980767
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(734) 482-6585
www.communityhousingalternatives.org
rhonda@communityresidence.org

CHA, a subsidiary of Community Residence Corporation, offers affordable housing and homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income individuals and families in Southeast Michigan. This service is provided with the support of federal, state, local and private funding sources.

For homeownership, CHA serves households in the approved Urban County areas which include Ypsilanti City and the following Townships: Ypsilanti, Pittsfield, Superior, Northfield, Salem, Ann Arbor, Bridgewater, York and Scio.

Through development and supportive management of affordable and accessible rental housing and through training and assistance with the home purchase process, CHA assists individuals and families in identifying and securing the housing option of their choice.

Community Residence Corporation

107 Ferris St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 482-3300
www.communityresidence.org
steven@communityresidence.org

CRC’s mission is to provide people with disabilities living option, life choices and control of their futures. As we enter our 21st year, CRC offers: Supervised Living in licensed group homes with 24-hour staffing; and Supported Living in the customer’s home providing staffing and support based on each individual’s needs and desires.

Through our subsidiary, Community Living Network, we offer Fiscal Intermediary Services for people who desire control over their individual budgets and a more self-determined life. Customers hire and employ their own support staff, and CLN acts as a payroll service producing paychecks and paying the appropriate taxes. Other bill payments can be made upon request. Each customer receives monthly statements regarding their financial activity. CLN is not an employment service or an employer. This service is available in Washtenaw, Jackson, Hillsdale, Livingston, Macomb, Ottawa and St. Clair Counties.

Look for our new administrative offices sometime this fall or winter at 1851 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.
First Choice—Your Best Choice
(800) 548-3467
www.firstchoicebestchoice.com

Who We Are: First Choice is a 24 hour live-in homecare agency exclusively providing live-in care to the elderly and people with special needs.

Our Mission: Is to support and provide a professional, compassionate live-in program to individuals who choose to receive care in the comfort and familiar surroundings of their own home.

For the recovering and elderly, our caregivers provide:
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- Medication Reminders
- Companionship and Conversation
- Nutritional Meal Preparation
- Every Day Living

Partners in Personal Assistance
1100 N. Main, Suite 117
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6354
(734) 214-3890
www.annarborppa.org
info@annarborppa.org

Partners in Personal Assistance (PPA) offers an empowering solution for people with disabilities (Consumer Employers) who want to exercise independence and self-determination in managing their personal care. Personal Assistants (PAs) employed through PPA have access to health care benefits and training opportunities. PPA staff and volunteers can assist Consumer Employers in identifying and screening potential PAs. PPA is a non-profit organization managed by Consumer Employers and Personal Assistants. Services can be covered by private funds, insurance, and Medicaid long term care programs.

INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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Hylant Group, Inc.
24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive
P.O. Box 541, Suite J4100
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106
(734) 741-0044
www.hylant.com

Hylant Group is dedicated to providing quality insurance, risk management, employee benefits and financial services to our clients. Regular business hours are 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, with emergency service available after hours and on weekends.

LEGAL SERVICES

Heberle & Finnegan, LPA
2580 Craig Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 302-3233
(734) 302-3234 Fax

Heberle & Finnegan LPA is an Ann Arbor law firm concentrating in civil rights litigation. In the area of disability rights, the firm represents individuals, organizations and groups in cases brought to improve access to public accommodations, government facilities and services, housing, employment and education. The firm has successfully sued dozens of municipalities throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania to require installation and retrofitting of curb ramps. In a recent settlement in a fair housing case in Erie, Pennsylvania, a developer agreed to build 80 additional accessible units.

Nursing home costs can exhaust a middle-class couple’s investments, but you can save your savings. If your spouse is in a nursing home, planning can make the difference between maintaining your standard of living and living in poverty.
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John B. Payne, Attorney
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Garrison LawHouse, PC
John B. Payne, Attorney
1800 Grindley Park, Suite 6
Dearborn, Michigan 48124
(313) 563-4900
www.law-business.com

Detroit Medicaid planning lawyer John B. Payne at Garrison LawHouse, PC is experienced in providing legal assistance that is tailored to meeting your specific needs and helping you plan for the future. At Garrison LawHouse, PC, we keep our practice focused on the following areas:

- Medicaid and Long Term Care
- Estate Planning
- Criminal Defense

As part of our commitment to keeping our clients informed through every step of the legal process—whether transactional or related to litigation—we wish to provide you with pertinent information on Long Term Care Insurance. Garrison LawHouse, PC has a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay for Medicaid planning for nursing home patients and other low-income persons.

Our Medicaid planning lawyer frequently lectures on estate planning and other topics to groups interested in legal issues. To set up an initial consultation, contact Garrison LawHouse, PC at our Dearborn office.

Pierce & Hahn, Attorneys and Counselors
709 W. Huron, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 769-9191
hahn@piercehahn.com

Pierce & Hahn is an Ann Arbor law firm which practices in the areas of corporate, immigration, real estate, probate and international law. Gary L. Hahn concentrates in the areas of corporate, limited liability company, general business, commercial transactions, probate, and real estate law. He works primarily with entrepreneurs and companies that are family-owned or otherwise closely held. Mr. Hahn also works with both buyers and sellers of commercial and residential real estate.

Lou Weir
8004 Grand River
Brighton, MI 48114
(810) 227-1300
In Ann Arbor: (734) 662-3160

The law office of D. Louis Weir specializes in helping clients in the areas of worker’s disability compensation and Social Security Disability. Mr. Weir has been in practice in the Ann Arbor area for more than 20 years. Mr. Weir is able to provide high-quality representation, along with personal service. Initial inquiries are at no cost.

THE ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

LIBRARY SERVICES

Ann Arbor District Library
Downtown Library:
343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Branch Locations:
Northeast: 2713 Plymouth Rd. (Plymouth Mall)
Malletts Creek: 3090 E. Eisenhower Parkway
Pittsfield: 2359 Oak Valley Drive
West: 2503 Jackson Rd. (Westgate Shopping Center)
(734) 327.4200 aadl.org

The Ann Arbor District Library holds a variety of materials for all ages, including books, CDs and DVDs, available for checkout to Library cardholders. Thousands of people utilize print and electronic resources; access the Internet through our fiber-optic connection and state-of-the-art Wi-Fi service; participate in computer and Internet training; view an exhibit; or attend one of our many events. Low-vision aids, books in large-print and foreign languages, and materials for English Language Learners are available.

Hours: Monday 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sunday noon–6 p.m.

Washtenaw County Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled
4135 Washtenaw Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 973-4350
(888) 460-0680
www.eWashtenaw.org
lbpd@eWashtenaw.org

The Library loans books and magazines on audiocassette tape and in large print to individuals who are certified as being unable to read standard print due to a physical disability. All services are free including mailing materials through the US Postal Service. The Library also loans descriptive videos and has assistive technology available for consumer use, including Internet access. Computer training is provided at no charge. Regular programming includes a bi-monthly Book Lovers Club, a bi-annual technology fair, and other social programs. For additional information, contact the Library.

LIFE COACHING

Arete Coaching and Consulting Inc.
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www.aretecoach.com
(734) 975-1504
(734) 975-2848 Fax
peg@aretecoach.com

CTA-Certified Life Coach Peg Ball provides coaching designed to assist health-minded people to build a vibrant life. Services include: Health Coaching to achieve and maintain personal wellness; Consultations in natural health alternatives and nutrition; Coaching and Consultation for People with Disabilities seeking greater independence and empowerment, transitioning wisely from high school to college, finding the right career or job, designing an optimal living environment, or meeting unique challenges posed by progressive disabilities; and Lifestyle Coaching to promote positive approaches to being “out” for lesbian or bisexual women with disabilities. Coaching is primarily provided by phone, thus decreasing time, travel and access concerns for active, busy clients with disabilities or health challenges.
**Optical/Low Vision**

**Dr. Steven Bennett, F.A.A.O.**
Certified Low Vision Specialist
2000 Green Rd., Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 930-2373

The specialty of Low Vision provides an improvement in vision through the use of state-of-the-art technology. Devices such as biopic telescopes for driving, microscopic systems for reading and computer use, electronic vision systems and the new “Systems of Sight, Maculens” allow our patients to maintain their independence. Our new Low Vision Resource Center carries a full line of hand-held and stand-magnification systems. The general public can view them without appointment. People with Macular Degeneration and other conditions that cause legal blindness can be helped.

**University of Michigan Health System**
Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation Services
W.K. Kellogg Eye Center
1000 Wall St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
(734) 764-5106
www.kellogg.umich.edu

Many people who struggle with low vision are not aware that there are ophthalmologists, optometrists, and rehabilitation specialists with special training in low vision. The Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation Services Team is comprised of Dr. Donna Wicker, O.D., Dr. Sherry Day, O.D., working cooperatively with an occupational therapist, Jim Salisbury, OTR.

Because of our multi-disciplinary approach, the UM Kellogg Eye Center Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation Services Clinic can tailor its services to the unique needs of each individual. Our doctors monitor remaining vision closely, prescribing the corrective lenses that are best suited to each vision problem. Our occupational therapist works with patients, at home when possible, to make the home environment more useful to the patient. The low vision team teaches patients how to use adaptive devices and make better use of their remaining vision to assure they are functioning well in their daily lives.

**Orthotics/Prosthetics**

**University of Michigan Orthotics and Prosthetics Center**
2850 S. Industrial Hwy., Suite 400
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 973-2400
www.med.umich.edu/pmr/op

The University of Michigan Orthotics and Prosthetics Center has been providing comprehensive services to clients from the University of Michigan Health System and to clients referred directly by their physicians since 1936. A physician prescription is required for all services. UMOPC provides a full range of pre-fabricated and custom orthotic devices. We also have a full range of soft good and post-mastectomy products in our “Personal Touch” program. Our prosthetists design, fabricate, fit and modify shoes and foot orthoses. And finally, our prosthetic team designs and fabricates a prosthesis that is most appropriate for individuals’ needs (both physiological and psychological). Please stop by and meet our ABC and BCP board-certified and registered staff members in our ABC and JCAHO-accredited facility.

**Philanthropy**

**Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation**
201 S. Main St., Suite 501
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 663-0401
www.aaacf.org

To build a strong community requires a strong foundation. At the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) we harness the power of permanent endowment so that today's charitable donations become tomorrow's charitable legacy. We offer donors a variety of ways to help them meet their philanthropic goals, such as establishing a fund in honor of a loved one or to benefit a favorite non-profit agency. Just ask the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living: for nearly 16 years, distributions from the AAACF John Weir Scholarship Fund have kept important programs strong and vital. Only imagine what you could make possible. AAACF: matching your philanthropic interests with community needs.

**Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

**Associates in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation**
5333 McAuley Dr., Suite R5106
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 434-6660
(800) 767-3336

Affiliated with St. Joseph Mercy Health System, we are board-certified physicians providing comprehensive rehabilitation services across the continuum of care. We treat a wide range of disabling conditions, including back, work and sports injuries, stroke, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and pain. Offices in Ann Arbor, Brighton, Plymouth/ Canton. EMG, Acupuncture, and IME services.
Chelsea Rehab, Chelsea Community Hospital
775 S. Main St.
Chelsea, MI 48118
(734) 475-4102

Chelsea Rehab specializes in the inpatient and outpatient treatment of people who have had a stroke or traumatic brain injury, as well as patients with orthopedic, musculo-skeletal and other neurological disorders. Comprehensive outpatient programs for people with hand injuries, sports injuries, orthopedic conditions and spinal disorders are provided by Occupational and Physical Therapists in the new CCH Wellness Center (734-475-3947). Visit our web site at www.cch.org.

The Recovery Project
37650 Professional Center Drive
Suite 105A
Livonia, MI 48152
(734) 953-1745
www.therecoveryproject.net

The Recovery Project, with outpatient rehabilitation centers located in Livonia and Clinton Township, Michigan provide innovative treatments for individuals with spinal cord, brain injury and other neurological injuries or diseases. Our clinics are located in existing fitness centers providing individuals the transition from rehabilitation to community fitness and health programs. We utilize the highest qualified clinicians in the areas of physical and occupational therapy and personal training. Our clinics have state of the art equipment including: stim bikes, body supported treadmills, arm and leg ergometers, vitaglide, standing frames and various strengthening/resistive machines.

We offer the following recovery programs:
• Traditional therapy.
• High intensity therapy.
• Home and community based therapy.
• Lifelong fitness programs.

University of Michigan Health System
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,
Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System
300 N. Ingalls
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
(734) 763-0971
(734) 936-5492 Fax
www.med.umich.edu/pmr/modelsci
E-mail model_sci@umich.edu

The University of Michigan’s Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System is a medical care and research effort, in partnership with the Center for Independent Living, to improve outcomes for individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries. As a Model SCI Care System, UM is able to offer not only outstanding clinical services, but also to support cutting-edge research and ongoing education to consumers and their families – keeping it in the forefront of SCI care. The UM Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has 5 certified physicians specializing in care of individuals with SCI – the largest of any hospital in Michigan. Please refer to our website for more information on clinical, education and research activities.

The University of Michigan Health System
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,
Pediatrics
325 E. Eisenhower Pkwy.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 936-7175
(734) 615-6716 Fax
http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/spine

The University of Michigan Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation program provides both outpatient and inpatient services to children and adolescents with physically disabling conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, brachial plexus injuries, amputations, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and muscular dystrophy through the comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation team of physicians, therapists, and psychologists.

The University of Michigan Health System
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,
The Spine Program
325 E. Eisenhower Parkway
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(800) 254-BACK
(734) 998-6550
(734) 615-1770 Fax
www.med.umich.edu/pmr/spine

The University of Michigan’s Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System is a multidisciplinary team of experts that strives to improve the health and productivity of individuals with spine disorders. The mission of the Spine Program is to become a national leader in spine care through synergy of excellence in clinical service, research and education; and to provide a comprehensive, patient-centered service that addresses the controllable factors influencing the health and productivity of persons with spine disorders. Numerous assessment and treatment options are offered to individuals with acute, subacute and chronic back disorders. These include diagnostic, general medicine, surgical and rehabilitation interventions, delivered by a team of physiatrists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, and exercise specialists.
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RECREATION

Adaptive Sports Coalition
2845 Crooks Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 829-8353
www.adhof.org

As part of the official organizational structure of the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame, the Adaptive Sports Coalition is a group of community based smaller organizations that support sports and recreation programs for the disabled throughout the state of Michigan. By hosting awareness clinics and training events in local communities, the Coalition helps people better understand the recreational opportunities available for people with disabilities. The Coalition specializes in activities such as wheelchair basketball, tennis, air rifle, track and field, sled hockey, water and snow skiing, hand cycling, adaptive golf, and baseball.

Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame
2845 Crooks Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 829-8353
www.adhof.org

Created in 1999 by Tony Filippis, Sr. of Wright & Filippis, the ADHOF celebrates the athletic achievements and community service accomplishments of people with disabilities. The alumni group of over 50 individuals and teams represents over 20 different adaptive sports. Alumni represent various disabled groups such as Amputees, Cerebral Palsy, Developmentally Disabled, Dwarf, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment. Current programs include The No Limits Mentoring Program which sends alumni members into local schools and churches to present motivational speeches and the Adaptive Sports Coalition, a group of community based smaller organizations that support sports and recreation programs for the disabled.

Michigan Sports Unlimited, Inc.
1915 Fordney St.
Saginaw, Michigan 48601
(989) 771-5530

Michigan Sports Unlimited, Inc. (MSU) recognizes the value of sports and recreation in the lives of individuals with disabilities. Our mission is to educate, instruct, and provide unlimited access to a wide range of recreational activities in order to improve the physical, social, and mental well being of individuals with disabilities and ultimately empower them to achieve success.

Michigan Sports Unlimited gives individuals with disabilities an opportunity to become active - socially and physically; and ultimately to empower them to achieve success in many areas of their lives, simply by showing them that “it can be done!” The list of pros is endless...there are no cons. Many of the individuals utilizing this organization have been stagnant in various parts of Mid- and Lower Michigan for years due to the unavailability of recreational opportunities. By the same token, it will provide newly injured individuals, both young and old, not only a glimmer of hope for the future, but a brightly lit path to health and well being.

Michigan Sports Unlimited will enable those with “limited” abilities to have:

- Unlimited access
- Unlimited possibilities
- Unlimited opportunities
- Unlimited amount of recreational activities

Please contact us with any questions: (989) 771-5530.
Thanks for your support!!
Jeff Coupie, Program Director
Michigan Sports Unlimited Inc.
Michigan Thunderbirds Wheelchair Sports
2568 Packard Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 971-0277 ext. 33
www.michiganthunderbirds.org
tbirds@aacil.org

The Thunderbirds promote competitive sports opportunities for athletes with disabilities. We have an adult and two junior wheelchair basketball teams and are active in handcycling, water-skiing, and other sports. When not competing, the T-Birds put on basketball and handcycling demonstrations for school or community organizations. Players are available to speak about their daily experiences of living with a disability, emphasizing the benefits of active participation in sports and promoting recreation and well-being for all people including those with disabilities.

Contact Glen Ashlock at (734) 971-0277, ext. 33 or Tbirds@aacil.org.

Programs to Educate All Cyclists
32 N. Washington Suite 1
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
www.bikeprogram.org
info@bikeprogram.org

Programs to Educate All Cyclists’ purpose is to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities by using cycling for transportation, integrated recreation, fitness, and therapy.

PEAC helps individuals with cognitive, physical, and emotional disabilities reach their cycling goals by providing basic skills programs, family rides, participating in cycling club rides, bicycle commuter training, mechanical skills, and spinning classes. In addition, PEAC strives to integrate cyclists with disabilities into the mainstream cycling community by giving them the skills necessary to participate in tours, races, and bicycle club rides.

TRANSPORTATION AND RENTALS

Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
2700 S. Industrial Hwy.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The AATA provides safe, convenient and efficient public transportation services and specialized services for persons with disabilities and seniors in the greater Ann Arbor area. Bus route and schedule information is available by phone at (734) 996-0400 or (734) 973-6997 (TDD), at the AATA website: www.theride.org and in alternative formats by request. For information or an application for specialized service, call (734) 973-6500.

AATA A-Ride

A-Ride is a shared-ride, demand-response, public transportation service for individuals whose disability prevents them from riding the regular fixed-route buses. Trips are provided using lift-equipped vehicles and taxi cabs. A-Ride service is provided within 3/4 of a mile from regular fixed routes in the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti plus Pittsfield, Superior and Ypsilanti townships. The fare is $2.00 per trip by advance reservation or $3.00 for same-day service, and can be paid with cash or pre-purchased scrip tickets. Applications for the A-Ride program are available on the AATA website: www.theride.org, by calling (734) 973-6500, or by visiting AATAs main office at 2700 S. Industrial Hwy., or the Blake Transit Center, 331 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor.

AATA Travel Training
2700 S. Industrial Hwy.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 677-3948

The Travel Training program helps individuals with disabilities learn to ride the fixed-route bus system to best meet their transportation needs. Individualized training is free of charge, so climb aboard and “Learn Your Wheels.” Call for information or to enroll.

Jet Set Travel
8233 Allen Rd.
Allen Park, MI 48101-1401
(313) 382-1800
(313) 382-6033 Fax
Steven.Hill@hill-industries.com

Jet Set Travel is a proud provider of travel services to the Thunderbirds basketball team.

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People’s Express Transportation is a transportation program of Northfield’s Human Services in Washtenaw County. To schedule a ride, call (734) 216-6073. We transport people in Washtenaw and parts of Livingston and Oakland counties. Please call 24 hours in advance. Our buses and vans are all lift equipped. We have a team of experienced and caring drivers. Ask about our special programs that you may qualify for rides at $1.00 each way by simply filling out a few forms.

Rehab Transportation
5570 Whittaker Rd., PO Box 970286
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 482-0506
(800) 306-6406

Rehab Transportation offers personalized, attentive and expert transportation for persons with special needs throughout Southeastern Michigan. Vehicles featuring hydraulic lifts with 800 lb. capacity, and 4-point tie-down with seat belts are available. We are also available to transport small groups including multiple wheelchairs. All drivers are professionally trained caregivers, so assistance with personal care tasks before and after transportation is also available. Insured and registered with the State of Michigan. Contact us for all your transportation needs.
Select Ride, Inc.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 663-5959
(734) 663-5994 TDD/TTY
Select Ride is pleased to offer accessible transportation through its Arbor Limousine division at no extra charge. We have fully accessible lift vans available for point to point transfers or hourly service. Non-accessible service is also available via your choice of taxicabs, vans, town car sedans, minibuses, or limousines. We go anywhere...whether you need a trip across town, to the airport - wherever you need to go! For more information or to schedule your next trip, please call Arbor Limousine at 663-5959.

Wheelchair Getaways
6005 Carscadden Way
Highland, MI 48357
(800) 887-7868
Wheelchair Getaways rents vans by the day, week, or month to persons with disabilities. Our vans include full-size conversion vans with raised-roof, raised-door, and side-door entry. Our minivans are equipped with a dropped floor, kneeling system, and power side-door ramp. All vans have tie downs for the wheelchair and tie downs for the chair user. Some of our vans are equipped with hand controls, power transfer seat for the driver, and power doors.

Wheelchair Seating
University of Michigan Health System
Wheelchair Seating Service
2850 S. Industrial, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 971-8286
The UMHS Wheelchair Seating Service provides evaluations and mobility equipment for complex seating/mobility needs. We offer a complete line of seating services including custom seating and positioning, and complex power mobility devices. UMHS Wheelchair Seating Service offers the resources of the University of Michigan at affordable prices.

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□ Transformation Society □ Innovation Society

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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(734) 971-0310 TTY
(734) 971-0826 FAX
theatlin@aacil.org E-MAIL
The University of Michigan Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System provides a continuum of comprehensive services that focus on a patient’s entire needs both during and after hospitalization—from inpatient care to rehabilitation, community reintegration, and living effectively with spinal cord injuries (SCI). We’re an integral part of the U-M Health System’s state-of-the-art service program for people with SCI, conducting innovative research and engaging in a variety of information sharing and outreach activities.

For more than 20 years, we’ve been working with the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living to ensure that our patients live full and productive lives today, tomorrow, and well into the future.
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