More Than You Think

Profiles of Our Community

2010 Annual Magazine & Directory of Community Resources
The University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SCIMS) provides comprehensive services for people with spinal cord injuries (SCI) during and after hospitalization — from inpatient care to outpatient rehabilitation and community reintegration. For more than 20 years, we have been working with the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living to address independent living needs, including employment, to help people adjust to life with SCI.

We are an integral part of the U-M Health System’s state-of-the-art service program for people with SCI. We conduct innovative research and engage in a variety of information sharing and outreach activities.
University of Michigan Home Care Services provides a full range of products and services for people with disabilities. We’re continually expanding our offerings with new and innovative products designed to help you live a more comfortable and independent life.

Our team of professionals will work with you to ensure your complete satisfaction. Whether it’s making sure your equipment fits properly; explaining the correct use of supplies; designing and building custom mobility products; or providing in-house nursing and care...we’re here for you.

**University of Michigan**
**Home Care Services**

Wheelchair Seating Service
Custom Wheelchairs and Mobility Products 877-868-8889

MedEQUIP
Durable Medical Equipment 800.530.0714

HomeMed
Home Infusion 800.862.2731

Michigan Visiting Care
Private Duty Services 800.822.7298

Michigan Visiting Nurses
Inhome Nursing 800.842.5504

www.um-homecare.org
note from the president

The Ann Arbor CIL is “On a Roll!” When our local, state, and national economies took a nose dive last year, our staff, volunteers, board members and donors rolled up their shirt sleeves and went to work!

Why? Because the Ann Arbor CIL is made up of a majority of individuals with disabilities. Because we are mission-based and passionately dedicated. And because we want to do everything we can to empower children, youth and adults with disabilities to be successful at home, at school, at work, and in the community.

It takes more than “a village,” it takes “a movement” to make things happen, and together we are helping individuals with disabilities in our community gain new knowledge and skills, and expand their personal and professional networks, that will propel them toward success.

In response to the economy, we issued our own “call to action,” and we rededicated ourselves to the fundamental beliefs that formed the foundation of the independent living movement and the founding of the Ann Arbor CIL more than thirty-three years ago. These beliefs embrace the notion that each individual is different and unique; that people with disabilities are the most knowledgeable experts about our own needs and issues; and that programs serving individuals with disabilities should be designed to serve all disability groups with peer support as a cornerstone. In independent living terms, a peer is someone with a disability who is a role model, a support person, and a friend who shares a common experience.

This 20th Anniversary Edition of Access Magazine is filled with the real life experiences of individuals with disabilities in our community. They share their successes, supported in very tangible and real ways by the extraordinary contributions of our staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and funders. These stories represent the spirit and what is best about the independent living movement.

Through the storm of the economic downturn, the Ann Arbor CIL is coming out stronger, and more exciting than ever before. I hope that reading about our work and the accomplishments of the people we serve results in your own “call to action.” We invite you to become part of the independent living movement and share in the vibrancy of the Ann Arbor CIL.

Jim Magyar
President & CEO
“When I’m in Michigan Stadium, I feel like I’m a part of a huge family,” Brock Mealer, 25, says. “For three hours every Saturday, life’s worries go on hold.” For Brock, who’s father and family friend passed away two years ago, going to Michigan Stadium to watch his brother play football is bittersweet.

Two years ago, Brock and his family were on their way to church on Christmas Eve when a 92-year-old man ran a stop sign and hit the car in which he and his family were traveling. Brock’s father, David Mealer, and his brother’s girlfriend, Hollis Richer, were killed in the accident. Brock sustained an injury to his spinal cord which causes him to be paralyzed from the waist down. When he goes to Michigan Stadium now, thoughts of his father and Hollis are never far.

In the days and months after the accident, Brock faced not only a difficult grieving process, but also a rehabilitation process that was both mentally and physically grueling. With life as he had known it forever changed, he says, “I had to learn everything all over. I couldn’t sit up, and I was in pain all the time.” He added, “one of the hardest things to get used to was needing to rely on someone else for life’s most basic tasks. I had always been so independent.”
During his rehabilitation process at the University of Michigan Hospital, Brock met Ann Arbor CIL staff member Tom Hoatlin, who also has a spinal cord injury. Tom directs the CIL’s Spinal Cord Injury Support program, which connects patients with new spinal cord injuries with peer mentors who have had similar injuries for several years. The program is designed to provide training in adjusting to life with a spinal cord injury as well as emotional support during a significant life transition process.

Brock says, “I remember Tom’s coming into my hospital room just to ask me about me. No one else at the hospital did that. Meeting Tom and getting to know him as a person meant a lot to me.” Brock added, “at a time when I didn’t know what life would look like after the hospital, Tom and the other peer mentors were an important example to me. They were guys with the same injuries, all living independent, full, and meaningful lives. They showed me that getting out there and living again was possible.”

After three months in the hospital, Brock took on the difficult task of returning home and learning how to live a normal life again. At the time of the accident Brock had been about to graduate from the Ohio State University, and he was working in the construction industry. “Suddenly, I didn’t know how and when I was going to be able to finish college, or how I was going to be able to go back to work. It was scary.” Brock finished his undergraduate degree and is now working on a master’s degree at the Ohio State University in public affairs. He says, “I want to get involved and change things for people with disabilities, and things related to driving and insurance. I want to use my experiences to make things better for other people.”

Brock is still training weekly on UM’s Lokomat, a machine which helps him put weight on his legs and gradually rehabilitate his central nervous system. Although unsure of whether he’ll be able to walk again, Brock says, “I’m starting to see some progress. I’m starting to be able to put weight on my legs, and it’s amazing to feel.”

“Going through something like this,” Brock added, “you realize how human you are. It changes your perspective on life. I’d always felt invincible before. I never expected something like this to happen to me. I appreciate life very differently now.”

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Ashley Faucher is showing that finding the right career is worth the challenging journey it can sometimes be. Now a successful stylist at Reflections Salon and Spa in Brighton, three years ago Ashley was a senior at Howell High School with little to no ideas for what her future held.

While many of her classmates were applying to different colleges and making plans for after graduation, Ashley was at a loss for what to do next. After years of struggling to get by in school, her grades and test scores were too low to be considered by most colleges. Ashley, who has a learning disability, looked into Oakland Community College, but the school told her she didn't qualify for regular classes. “They said her scores were too low,” Ashley’s mother, Penny Faucher, said. “After everything we had been through, that was tough to hear.”

Because of her learning disability, Ashley has a hard time processing reading and math, and words on a page can seem confusing and overwhelming to her. Throughout high school, completing homework and preparing for tests were fraught with nerves, anxiety, and feelings of uncertainty. Test after test, Ashley had worked hard to prepare, only to receive disappointing grades in return.

Although her learning disability had affected her performance in the classroom, her intelligence and propensity for success were evident in other ways. Her freshman year of high school, Ashley memorized a complex cheer routine in just two days to make the varsity cheerleading squad, beating out older, more experienced cheerleaders for the spot.

“I learn things in different ways,” Ashley said. “Figuring out what those ways are has come in unexpected ways.” In middle school, Ashley said she got in trouble for bouncing on the trampoline while she was studying for a test once. “But it worked. I got a B. Most of the time studying the right way, I got Fs.”

“We joke all the time about her learning disability now,” Penny said, “but back then it wasn’t so funny. We used to wonder if she would make it.” Penny said Ashley’s studying became a whole family affair. “Ashley’s father and I did all kinds of things to help her learn. She was so good at learning cheers, we used to make up cheers to help her learn material for tests.”

After graduation, Ashley started looking for a job, but nothing was panning out. “I gave my resume to a few places, but I wasn’t really putting myself out there. I was afraid of having to read or write on a job. I didn’t know how my learning disability would be on a job,” Ashley eventually got involved with Ann Arbor CIL staff members Dan Durci and Helen Ledgard, who helped Ashley develop her resume and identify job leads. After several applications, Ashley landed a job at DSW Shoe Warehouse in Brighton.

“I knew working in retail wasn’t where I ultimately wanted to end up, but the job at DSW was what I needed,” Ashley said. “It helped me face a lot of fears I had about working.” Ashley said that when she was first assigned to work on the cash register and write down orders from customers, she wasn’t sure how she would handle it. “But after a little bit of practice, it was fine. I figured out tricks to help me stay on top of things, and I learned that if I make a mistake on a job, it’s okay.”

Ashley worked at DSW for nine months and gained the confidence...
continued from page 10

she needed to go after a goal she had had since she was a child: to become a professional hair stylist. Ashley took the steps to apply to cosmetology school and was ultimately accepted at Douglas J in Lansing. Through a partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Dan provided Ashley with funding to help pay for the tuition, and he helped her secure accommodations for her learning disability.

Facing a return to the classroom, though, Ashley was nervous. “I knew there were going to be a lot of hard tests. I didn’t want it to be a repeat of high school,” she said. “This time, though, something was different. “For the first time, I wanted to be there. I wanted to be in school. And I wanted to do well.” With that motivation, Ashley said she made a decision that she was going to have to be open about her disability.

In high school, Ashley had always hid the fact that she had a learning disability. Many times she had passed up accommodations the school provided her for her learning disability for fear of being viewed differently by her classmates. “I never wanted anyone to see I had a learning disability. In order to use the school’s accommodations, I would have had to leave the room when a test was going on, and I didn’t want to do that. I did everything I could to hide my disability. When other kids would finish a test before me, I’d fake being done just so I wouldn’t be the last one working on a test. When I went to cosmetology school, I decided I couldn’t do that.”

At Douglas J, because of her learning disability the school offered her additional time to take tests and an assistant to read test material out loud to her. “Getting special accommodations for tests, I didn’t know how other people in the class would react,” she said. “But I was completely open about it, and my teachers and classmates turned out to be really supportive and encouraging. They knew me for me, and that was a totally new feeling.”

Ashley fought hard to achieve good grades and soon found herself getting recognition from her peers. She graduated from Douglas J in December 2008 and later passed the state licensing exam. “It was a long road of figuring out what I needed, and then advocating for it. But I made it,” she said. Shortly thereafter, Ashley landed a job at Reflections, where she now has a full schedule of repeat clients. She cuts, styles, and colors hair, as well as does manicures and pedicures.

“It’s been a long road, but it’s amazing to have made it to where I am. More than anything, this job has made me believe in myself.” She says her learning disability continues to influence all aspects of her life. “Going out to a restaurant is always going to be hard for me; I have a hard time with menus. But I’ve figured out that if I ask my friends what they’re ordering, it helps me understand what the menu says. And things like texting and Facebook have also really helped me with spelling.”

She says that learning to understand her learning disability, be open about it, and get around the roadblocks it puts up has taken a while, but it’s been worth the journey. “Many of my friends from high school still have no idea I have a learning disability, but with friends I meet now, and people in my career, I’m open about it,” Ashley said. “They all know and don’t care. Life is easier. They know me for me, and that means a lot.”

“It feels good to be where I am now,” Ashley added. “Looking back, there were a lot of hard struggles along the way, but enjoying all the wonderful outcomes now, it never really seems like it was all that hard.”

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“Before I came to the CIL, I had never thought of my depression as part of the disability community, and I didn’t identify with the CIL,” Joel Reinstein, 22, says. “When I heard the word, ‘disability,’ wheelchairs came to mind. I had never thought about hidden issues as being considered a disability. The summer program really helped me recognize my own depression as a disability.”

Joel, a student at Michigan State University (MSU), was a member of the Ann Arbor CIL’s Americorps VISTA Summer Employment Opportunity Program, which provided a 10-week, full-time work-learning experience for 20 young adults. The Ann Arbor CIL launched the program in partnership with Michigan Works! and the Corporation for National and Community Service. It combined on-the-job work experiences at seven area non-profit organizations with classroom-based learning at the CIL about career exploration and “real world” readiness. Students worked at the Ann Arbor CIL, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Court Appointed Special Advocates, EMU Gear Up, the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative, the Neutral Zone, and Ozone House.

“Participating in the program really made an impact on me,” Joel said. “I saw first-hand the benefits of hard work and sticking something out. It gave me a feeling of being able to accomplish things.”

Joel, who was diagnosed with clinical depression and anxiety in high school, said “having depression has had a huge impact on my life. Thoughts of ‘what’s the point? I’m not going to make it. I’m not good enough’ play out in my mind all the time.” Joel took a leave of absence from MSU last winter because of challenges related to his depression. After spending the summer with the CIL, he said, “I now have a better understanding that my own hidden issues are part of the disability community.”

“Because of my depression, everything I do is focused on taking on problems that seem insurmountable,” Joel said. “But I’ve stopped trying to fight off my depression, and I accept it as a part of me. It’s always going to be there. Now what I try to do is acknowledge its existence and get out of the door anyway.”

Joel plans to continue with his studies at MSU this winter. And after graduation? “I want to apply for the Peace corps,” he said. “I don’t like doing things just for my career. I want to help people.”
Stacey Boyd is a photographer who gets noticed. His striking posters and commissioned photography projects grace the walls of churches, private businesses, and family homes. And his services are in high demand. But Stacey’s road to professional success was far from typical.

A military vet, Stacey was serving on the Fort Bragg Military Base in North Carolina in 1987 when he was in a car accident that left him with a spinal cord injury and paralysis from the chest down. Stacey spent a year recovering in the hospital and going through rehab. “I had to learn everything all over again: how to sit up, get dressed, get out of bed, and take care of myself,” he said. “It was like nothing I’d ever been through.”

When he finally got home from the hospital, Stacey had a hard time with depression. “For several years, I didn’t leave the house much. It was a different life. Nothing was the same,” he said. “But after a long time like that, one day something just clicked in me. All of a sudden, I looked around and realized, ‘this is the way it’s gonna be. I’m not gonna walk. And I’m not gonna worry about it.’” From there, Stacey said, “life moved forward.”

Stacey went to the Veteran’s Administration (VA) and got help from his counselor Merri Busch, who in turn referred him to the Ann Arbor CIL for help in launching his business, Rollin’ Photography. Over a period of several months, Ann Arbor CIL staff members Rick Weir and Cheranissa Raach helped Stacey come up with a strategic business plan, served as a sounding board for new ideas, and helped him identify new products, customers, and revenue sources. Rick and Cheranissa also helped Stacey assess what his equipment needs were and apply for funding for the equipment from the VA.

“Rick and Cheranissa were instrumental in helping me get my business going,” Stacey says. “So were my family, my wife, Alicia, and my two boys, Jordan and Justin. Each person played an important part in helping me prove that doing what I love can be a financially viable business.”

Stacey has now expanded far beyond his customized youth sports posters. He now does senior portraits, school class photos, professional sports photography, antique photo restoration, and artistic photo works for commissioned projects. “I’m busy,” he says, “and it’s all from word of mouth.”

“At the end of the day, what I love most in this job is to see the expressions on the kids’ faces. They are so excited to see the finished work,” he says referencing the children’s sports posters he does. “When I show up at an event, they all say, ‘you’re the picture man!’ It’s like nothing else.”

“I LOVE THAT I AM ABLE TO BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL FOR MY TWO SONS. FOR THEM TO SEE THEIR DAD, IN A WHEELCHAIR, AT HOME, AND RUNNING A BUSINESS, THAT IS SO COOL.”

“WITH THE DISABILITY, MY LIFE IS THE SAME AS IT ALWAYS WAS. I USED TO DO 10,000 THINGS; NOW I DO 9,999. THE ONLY THING I CAN’T DO IS WALK.”
karly
• Supports for Youth

For as long as she can remember, Karly Stanislawski, 18, has been determined to make it on her own. Now a journalism major at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, Karly is doing just that. “Being independent is awesome. It’s an irreplaceable feeling,” Karly says. “There are many challenges, but to be independent is worth every moment.”

Born with cerebral palsy, Karly has limited strength and muscle spasticity in her lower body, which makes her unable to walk on her own. She also has a learning disability and a condition in her eyes, called strabismus, which causes her to have weakness in her eye muscles and limited depth perception.

With these challenges, Karly has become a stand-out student. She graduated from Dexter High School last spring with a 3.5 GPA, and she is now embarking on a goal she has had since she was a young child: to go away to college and make it on her own. Now a journalism major at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, Karly is doing just that. “Being independent is awesome. It’s an irreplaceable feeling,” Karly says. “There are many challenges, but to be independent is worth every moment.”

“I’ve always had a drive in me to be independent. I think I got that from my parents,” Karly said. “They always believed I could be independent, and they instilled that belief in me.” Karly says her parents had a huge role in helping her get to where she is today. “So many people with disabilities don’t have people who tell them they can have a normal, happy life, but my parents always did. They always pushed me to do things I didn’t think I could do, and they gave me the drive to set goals for myself. Being away from them now I realize how much I owe them.”

Before going away to college, Karly got involved with the Ann Arbor CIL, and staff members Anna Dusbiber-Gossage and Jen Chapin-Smith helped her prepare for a lot of the challenges that would lie ahead for her on campus. Anna and Jen helped Karly think through things like how she’d get around on campus with enough time to get to class, how she’d shower, and how she’d do laundry. They also helped Karly figure out the questions to ask the University’s Office for Disability Support Services and advocate for what she needed.

“The things Anna and Jen helped me with were things I never would have thought of on my own, and they were important. Anna and Jen gave me advice I couldn’t have gotten from others in my life. They knew what it would be like to have a disability on campus because they’ve been there. Only someone else with a similar disability can understand.”

Karly says the most significant benefit of working with Jen and Anna was just getting to know Anna, who also has cerebral palsy. “Anna is a few years older than me, and she has graduated from college, she’s working at the CIL, and she is married. She has made a good life for herself. Just by being her, she has set an important example for me.”

Karly was a multi-year winner of the CIL’s John Weir Academic Scholarship, and she was a member of the Center’s Americorps VISTA Summer Employment Opportunity Program. “Being involved with the CIL changed my perspective on life,” she said. “Every week I’d see people and that meant a lot to him. When the tennis sessions aren’t on, he asks about them all the time.”

She also says the program has benefited their whole family. “Since Doug has become skilled in tennis, his sisters see him in a context of ability, not disability. We play tennis as a family now, and it’s an activity where he participates as an equal.”

Doug volunteers at Sunrise Assisted Living and works three days a week with a supported employment program. “He now has a full and active life, and the CIL is part of that. He has hobbies, work, friends, and family,” Jane said. In addition to tennis, Doug has been involved in bicycling, walking, yoga, and game nights at the CIL.

Doug Peterson is an avid tennis player, and it shows on the court. “Tennis is really fun,” he says. “It’s good exercise.” Doug, who has Downs Syndrome, has been participating in the Ann Arbor CIL’s tennis program for four years. He had never played tennis before participating in the program, and now he’s quite skilled.

“The CIL’s Sports and Rec Programs have made a definite and positive impact on Doug.” Jane Peterson, Doug’s mother, says. “Doug has gained both skills and friends that have carried on beyond the CIL. The skills have given him confidence he didn’t have before, and he now plays all the time with friends or family. He and his dad play almost every weekend.”

Doug, 32, has always had a love of being physically active, and throughout his lifetime sports have provided a way for him to connect with others. In high school, Doug was invited to swim with the varsity swim team after the coach saw him swimming at a local club. After high school, though, Doug had a hard time finding activities and making friends. “A lot of things have come into play to make Doug’s life better, and the CIL is one of them,” Jane says.

Jane added that the CIL’s tennis program has provided an important social context for Doug. “At the CIL, Doug is among peers,” she says. “It is one of the few places where he can feel successful, and that means a lot to him. Doug volunteers at Sunrise Assisted Living and works three days a week with a supported employment program. “He now has a full and active life, and the CIL is part of that. He has hobbies, work, friends, and family,” Jane said. In addition to tennis, Doug has been involved in bicycling, walking, yoga, and game nights at the CIL.

“DOUG AND HIS TENNIS SHOW PEOPLE NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. HE SHOWS THE WORLD AROUND HIM TO RECOGNIZE ABILITIES, NOT DISABILITIES.”

“BEING INDEPENDENT CAN HAVE ITS UPS AND DOWNS, BUT I WOULDN’T CHANGE IT FOR ANYTHING.”
"I've done a lot of sports events, and I-Ride is the best event I've done," Adam Rose, 15, says. A competitive hand-cyclist since the age of 12, Adam has a lot to compare it to. Over his tenure as a young athlete, Adam has competed in a long list of elite-level hand-cycling races and sporting events. He and his parents spend many weekends on the road, going to hand-cycling races around Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and beyond, and photos of Adam on the winner's podium at most of these races fill his dad's expansive photo collection.

Every year, Adam and his parents, Don and Lori Rose, participate in the Ann Arbor CIL's cycling event, called Independence Ride, or "I-Ride." I-Ride is a four-day adaptive cycling event in which people with and without disabilities ride from Holland, Michigan, to Ann Arbor. This past year 150 people participated in the event, and 35 cyclists rode the entire journey from Holland to Ann Arbor.

Adam is no ordinary, super-star athlete, though. When Adam was four, he had leukemia which nearly took his life. "There were times when Adam was so weak and taken by the cancer, I didn't think he'd make it," Don says. But Adam fought back, and his cancer has now been in remission for 11 years. Adam has a T10 spinal cord injury which he sustained from a rare adverse reaction to one of his chemotherapy treatments. As a result Adam is paralyzed from the waist down.

When reflecting on the long battle Adam has had with leukemia and paralysis, Don admits, "it's been hard. I had to quit my job the first year of Adam's leukemia, and there have been so many medical visits. But now I watch him, big, strong, and so independent. It's amazing to see."

Adam is now a sophomore at Eisenhower High School in Shelby Township. "Disability has shaped my life," he says.

"What's simple for most kids is a challenge for me. But using a wheelchair, you learn to adapt. Having a disability has made me more appreciative of things around me. I have a better attitude toward life because of it."

Adam started handcycling when he was seven and also got involved in wheelchair basketball when he was eight. When he entered his first handcycling race at the age of 12, his love of competitive cycling took off from there.

Adam and his family began participating in the CIL's I-Ride event two years ago. "Before the first I-Ride, I was nervous," Adam said. "Up until that point, I had only competed in marathons, which take about 2-3 hours. I-Ride is a lot more intense." Don added, "I didn't know if he could do it, but he did."

Now with three I-Rides under his belt, Adam says, "I-Ride is a lot of fun. There's a lot of joking around, and everyone is like a big family. It's one of the only events where able-bodied and disabled people ride side-by-side. There are no disabilities or special abilities. We're all the same."

"Although Adam has been one of the youngest adult participants in the event," Don said, "being in sports with older adults with disabilities has had a huge impact on him. He sees them excelling at sports and at life. The other guys show him there can be a good life ahead. We look forward to doing I-Ride for many years to come. It's the highlight of our summer."

Adam's goals for the future? "The Paralympics," he says. "I want to qualify for the U.S. Paralympic hand-cycling team in 2012 or 2016. I'm only 15. We never thought I'd be this good this young -- I can only imagine how much better I can become. It's getting exciting."
impairments are resulting in reduced energy costs for the entire school system, because the lights turn off automatically when a room is not occupied.

In addition, ramps installed at the Skyline football stadium are providing easier access to games for students, families, and football fans who use wheelchairs. “It’s an excellent ramp,” said Benjamin Graham, a counselor at Skyline High School. “I’ve used it at games and noticed how gradual it is. A lot of ramps are so steep that individuals in wheelchairs cannot safely use them without help. This ramp is very well-designed. Just about anyone in any wheelchair would have an easy time using it.” The ramps installed at the football stadium are serving as a model for other schools and architects to follow due to their innovative design and the choice of upper and lower-level seating they offer to users.

“Making sure our facilities are truly accessible is important to us,” said Dr. Todd Roberts, Superintendent of Ann Arbor Public Schools. “In order to make sure that every child has access to the education we’re providing, we need to ensure that every child, parent, and grand-parent who comes to our schools can use our facilities.”

Randy Trent, Executive Director for Physical Properties, said that working with the CIL really helped him make things better by seeing things from the standpoints of all users: “At the schools, when accessibility issues come up, it’s often in the context of one problem for one child. With the CIL, we discussed experiences faced by everyone, from kids, parents and grandparents to community members. Carolyn helped us understand that accessibility is not about just meeting a standard, it’s about doing what works better for everyone.”

Carolyn continues to work with the school system to review plans and consult on accessibility issues of facilities and programming. She brings expert-level knowledge to the work, having completed a variety of advanced ADA compliance and accessibility training programs. Staff members at the CL regularly consult with private businesses and units of government on accessibility, universal design, and ADA compliance issues.

This year, Nazarena Acosta-Miranda went to middle school for the first time. For many young people her age, going to middle school, where classes change every hour and hallways are bustling thoroughfares of activity, can be an intimidating transition. For Nazarena, a sixth grader at Clague Middle School in Ann Arbor, the move was especially challenging. Nazarena, who is blind, had to memorize where each of her classes were and learn how to navigate the school on her own.

To help Nazarena get around more easily, the school installed Braille signage along all hallways, pointing the way to classrooms, bathrooms, the music room, and the cafeteria. “The signs are helpful. They help me find my way when I get lost,” Nazarena said.

The Braille signage was part of a broader initiative of Ann Arbor Public Schools’ (AAPS) over the past two years to implement changes at buildings and facilities to make them more accessible for students and constituents with disabilities. Ann Arbor CL staff member Carolyn Gravi has served as a consultant to the initiative and provided advice on universal design and disability accessibility. As result of the work, all public schools in Ann Arbor now have accessible entries at every building, appropriate and accessible parking, at least one accessible men’s and women’s bathroom on every floor, and
You have no idea how much this ramp means to me," Patrick Redmond, 51, says. Through advocacy efforts of the Monroe CIL, Patrick recently received a ramp which helps him enter and exit his house with ease.

Before getting the ramp, Patrick had an old ramp on his front door which was barely useable. It was sinking into the ground and had become dangerous. Patrick says he used to have to use his back door, struggling to walk using a cane. As a result he didn’t leave the house much unless necessary.

“When I received a call that I would soon have a new ramp built onto my house for free, I about fell over," he said. A retired engineer, Patrick experiences seizures and traumatic arthritis. After multiple knee and back surgeries, Patrick now uses a wheelchair.

The ramp that Patrick received was part of a broader ramp-building initiative made possible by a partnership among Comcast, the Michigan Senate, Disability Network-Michigan, the United Way, and the Monroe CIL. Early in 2009, Comcast donated $30,000 to build ramps for five Michigan residents in need. Funding for Patrick’s ramp was allocated to the Monroe area after Monroe CIL staff members Rhonda Elliott and Kelly Meadows spoke to their legislators about the large number of people who need wheelchair ramps.

Most insurance companies will not pay for wheelchair ramps, and the Monroe United Way has a two-year waiting list of people wanting ramps. The Monroe CIL staff chose Patrick based on need and coordinated many of the details for the project.

On August 7, more than 30 people came to Patrick’s house to help make the ramp a reality. State Senator for Monroe, Randy Richardville, was one of the volunteers that day. Tim Hortons donated donuts and coffee, and Lowe’s donated delivery of the wood and other supplies. Contractor Mike Everitt of Unlimited Contracting in Dundee donated his time to oversee the work, and State Line Medical donated the design plans for the ramp.

Patrick is elated with the results. “Now I can pull right up to my front door in my power wheelchair,” Patrick said. “I appreciate this so much.”
**Linda**

*Assistive Technology*

"It is what it is, and it's all good," Linda Owczarzack, 55, says. "That's my saying, and that's the summary." Linda, through dry wit and unwavering determination, is showing that life really can be reinvented.

In 2005, Linda was diagnosed with estrogen responsive breast cancer, following a diagnosis of basal cell carcinoma on her face in 1999. The doctors gave her a 30% chance of survival. After multiple surgeries, chemotherapy, and difficult complications, Linda made it to remission. Though she beat the odds for survival, Linda was left with complicated and permanent side-effects of the cancer treatment. She now has moderate to severe neuropathy in her arm and hand movements, and Dragon Naturally-Speaking, a software program, enables her to enter text through speaking.

Ann Arbor CIL Rehabilitation Engineer Glen Ashlock helped Linda get ahold of two types of technology allowing her to enter text into her computer without moving her fingers. The alternative keyboard OrbiTouch enables her to input letters and commands using hand movements instead of finger movements, and Dragon Naturally-Speaking, a software program, enables her to enter text through speaking.

To use the devices, Linda had to learn a whole new way of doing things. For the OrbiTouch, Linda had to master a code based on colors and hand movements, and to use the Dragon Naturally-Speaking, she had to learn how to speak so that it catches her instructions accurately. Glen provided Linda with training and support to make sure she was prepared to use them, and Linda says, "Glen was wonderful. It's going to take some more time to really master these devices, but after only a few months, I'm already seeing the benefits."

"The Center has provided a real opportunity for success," she added. "The new devices allow me to use the skills I have in a non-traditional way." Linda paused and reflected, "which is who I am."

When she returned to school, though, Linda found the neuropathy was posing challenges that were getting in the way of her success. She couldn’t type accurately on a standard keyboard and was having difficulty getting her assignments done. "It was frustrating," Linda said. She eventually got a recommendation from UM for alternative keyboarding technology and went to Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the CIL for help in getting connected to it.

**Julia**

*Supports for Independent Living*

Julia Moore is a woman who fights for what she wants. After she retired in 2007, when she found herself unable to afford necessary medications, she didn't know what to do. A former middle school teacher for the Ann Arbor Public Schools, Julia found herself asking, "I worked 38 years for this?"

"I have neurological deficits stemming from a congenital spinal column defect, and as a result, nerve impulses don't reach various parts of her body. Julia said, "I don't have good balance, I have muscle spasms, and I drop things. I'm in a lot of pain." In 1993, Julia became paralyzed from the neck down. She underwent three spinal surgeries and months of rehabilitation to regain functioning. She said, "it was a long process to learn how to drive and walk again." Currently Julia uses a scooter and a crutch to get around.

Under her retirement medical insurance, many of her necessary medications were not covered. She applied for a number of prescription drug coverage programs but kept getting turned down because she fell between the qualifying requirements of the programs and the insurance coverage she had. Julia applied for Social Security disability benefits hopeful that she would find the answer she needed. She went through a very labor-intensive application process, which was made even harder by the manual dexterity required for filling out the forms and the disability she has... When she was turned down, she thought, "I did all this work, and they turned me down! To say I wasn't disabled was ridiculous. I was angry."

Julia consulted Ann Arbor CIL staff member George Ridenour, a long-time friend of hers. George encouraged her to appeal the decision and then helped her through the process. Remembering the lengthy process, she said, "it was very frustrating. They kept sending me one packet of paperwork after another, and I was insulted by some of the things they asked. They didn't understand how it feels to have a disability."

"George was my advocate, though," she said. "He helped me fill out the forms and presented my case. He knew how to ask for what I needed. Most importantly, he gave me perspective on the process." She explained that when she was frustrated by the never-ending requests for paperwork, George helped her see that the things they were asking were normal. "George told me what to expect. He knew a lot about the process because he'd done it before. It was a huge help."

After what seemed like endless paperwork and back and forth, Julia finally got the news: She had been approved for Social Security disability benefits. "I thought, 'after almost three years, it's about time.'" Julia said now with the realization that she would find the answer she needed. She applied for disability benefits. "I was ecstatic. I was able to pay for the medication she needs. 'I can go out and live my life, finally. It's making a huge difference."
This summer, Katie Koval, 18, moved out on her own. Though a typical rite of passage for many young adults, it was a significant turning point for Katie.

When Katie was 15, she was diagnosed with epilepsy. After going through a long journey of diagnosis, treatment, and learning how to deal with long-term effects, moving out on her own is a symbol of the long way she’s come.

When Katie first started getting seizures, doctors couldn’t figure out what was causing her condition. Eventually she underwent brain surgery, which helped to stabilize the seizures, but the surgery resulted in permanent brain damage which causes her short-term memory and balance problems. The seizures still pose significant risk for Katie.

When Ann Arbor CIL staff member Jen Chapin-Smith first met Katie, she informed her that people with challenges related to seizures often use service dogs. Dogs can provide advanced assistance for individuals with epilepsy.

With Jen’s advice, Katie acquired Rosie, a black lab who is being trained as Katie’s social support and seizure alert dog. Because humans emit a certain scent before having a seizure, when Rosie is fully trained, she will be able to detect the scent and warn Katie to get to a safe position before the seizure takes place. This will prevent Katie from having a seizure in an unsafe location, such as while crossing the street, or climbing the stairs.

When fully trained, Rosie will be able to help Katie with a number of other things. Because of her brain damage, Katie often has a hard time remembering to take her anti-seizure medication at the right time, and when she walks even short distances, she has a hard time staying oriented or remembering how to return where she came from. Rosie can help Katie remember to take her anti-seizure medication, and she can also help Katie keep her bearings and remember how to get back to her starting point. Rosie may also be able to help her drive safely one day. Katie had to give up her learner’s permit when she was 15 due to the epilepsy, and service dogs can sometimes help individuals qualify to drive.

One of the unexpected benefits of having Rosie has been the signal that she provides to others. “When I go out, often times it’s hard to know how to tell people that I have a disability,” Katie said. “Because Rosie wears a service dog jacket, she’s a natural ice-breaker. It’s so much easier to say ‘I have a disability’ in this way.”

“There have been a couple of moments when I’ve realized just how much Rosie helps me. There are so many unexpected and scary things that can come up with my condition. Before I got her, I never wanted to leave the house. Now with Rosie, I’m not afraid to go out.”

Katie, a dancer since the age of four, had to give up a career in ballet after the brain surgery, due to the balance problems it caused. Katie has found an unexpected love of world dance, though, and is now involved in African, Middle Eastern, and Indian dancing. She teaches at a number of dance studios around Ann Arbor.

Katie is a winner of the CIL’s John Weir Academic Scholarship and has been involved in the CIL’s youth programming. She attributes the CIL with providing significant emotional and social support for her. Katie is now a first year student at Eastern Michigan University, majoring in international affairs. She speaks Mandarin and is looking to become a professional translator.

When reflecting on the journey epilepsy has taken her on, Katie says, “I’ve had my moments. Frustration, anger, discomfort, and pain. I would be lying if I said it hasn’t been a challenge. But I have days when I can’t believe how far I’ve come.”
Four years ago, Norman LaFleur was living in the back room of his sister’s house when the cold temperatures and damp air caused him to get pneumonia and complications related to his diabetes. After initial treatment in the hospital, a social worker recommended that he finish his recovery in a nursing home. The move to the nursing home was well-intentioned, but Norman quickly found himself stuck there, with no options to help him get out. “It was lonely there, and I felt stuck. I wanted to get out,” Norman said. “The nursing home was not made for me.”

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Norman was not alone. He was one of a large number of individuals with disabilities who are living in nursing homes but don’t need to be. Norman was not alone. He was one of a large number of individuals with disabilities who are living in nursing homes but don’t need to be.

Ann Arbor CIL staff member Julia Plaggemeyer heard about Norman and got involved. The CIL’s Nursing Facility Transition Program, funded through Medicare, and done in collaboration with the Area Agency on Aging 1-8 and the Department of Community Health, helps individuals like Norman move out of nursing homes and achieve an independent life in the community.

Norman has four disabilities that posed challenges to his moving out of the nursing home. He has diabetes that requires him to get insulin three times per day. He has a vision impairment that makes it difficult for him to read a glucometer and administer the correct dosage of insulin on his own. He has neuropathy, which causes him to need a wheelchair to get around. And he has kidney disease that requires him to need dialysis three times per week.

Despite these challenges, Norman was motivated to achieve an independent life. To enable a move, Julia worked with him to secure an apartment and arranged for appropriate household items. She coordinated in-home chore services, nursing services, and training for Norman to learn how to treat his diabetes independently. She also helped identify accessible transportation for him to get to kidney dialysis appointments. Finally, she helped advise Norman on the significant event that was about to take place.

Before moving day, Norman said, “I was nervous. But I was excited, too. I knew I had to do it.”

“Looking back, I realize what an incredibly life-changing event Norman went through and how privileged I was to take part in it,” Julia said.

The transition to an independent life in the community went as planned. Norman now goes to kidney dialysis three times a week and uses accessible public transportation to get there on his own. He prepares a lot of his own meals in his apartment but says with a smile, “I order out once in a while from Jimmy John’s. I really like that place.” Norman also goes downstairs and sits outside with his neighbors regularly. “We talk about different things,” he says. “And I go places by myself. I have freedom.”

“I’m very grateful for the help I got in getting here. I have a good life here. I feel good when I think about myself now.”
by the numbers:

2,472 children, youth, and adults with disabilities received 4,692 independent living support services this year. On top of that, more than 2,000 individuals benefited from our Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training programs at local schools, universities, and organizations.

there’s more than you think to the disability community:

disabilities served by the Ann Arbor CIL:

AD/HD  Cognitive Impairment  Muscular Dystrophy  Narcolepsy
Agent Orange  Deaf/Hearing Impaired  Organ Transplant  Recipient
Alzheimer’s  Dementia  Parkinson’s Disease  PTSD
Amputation  Depression  Post-Polio Syndrome  Pulmonary Disease
Arthritis  Developmental Disability  Short Stature/ Little Person
Asthma/Emphysema  Diabetes  Sleep Apnea  Spinal Cord Injury
Autism/Asperger’s  Emotional Impairment  Stroke  SubSTANCE ABUSE
Autimmune Disorder  Epilepsy/Seizure  Other condition that causes substantial limitation of a major life activity
Cancer/Cancer Survivor  Fibromyalgia  Lupus
Cardiovascular Disorder  HIV/AIDS  Multiple Sclerosis
Cerebral Palsy  Kidney Disease  Narcolepsy
Chemical Sensitivity  Learning Disability  Organ Transplant
Cognitive Impairment  Limb Length Disparity  Organ Transplant
Deaf/Hearing Impaired  Lupus  Organ Transplant
Deaf/Hearing Impaired

The Ann Arbor CIL's annual financial audit is available by contacting our Chief Executive Officer at jmagyar@aacil.org.

those we served

BY GENDER
Female: 53%
Male: 47%

BY AGE
5-19: 12%
20-24: 8%
25-59: 70%
60+: 5%

BY RACE OR ETHNICITY
White/Caucasian: 71%
Black/African-American: 26%
American Indian/Alaska Native: < 1%
Asian: 2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: < 1%
Hispanic/Latino: < 1%
Two or More Races: < 1%

20 th Annual Edition

annual gala benefit & auction

This year, more than 125 people came to the Ann Arbor CIL on September 11 to raise money for the Center at our annual Gala Benefit and Auction. Volunteers transformed our warehouse into an elegant event hall, and in a lively and engaging atmosphere, guests helped us raise more than $35,000. Donors bid on such items as a guitar signed by Kid Rock, an “Off the Wall” album signed by Michael Jackson, and an African safari vacation. The live auction also raised funds for a fully accessible family restroom to be built at the CIL, which will allow members of our disability community to use the restroom privately and with greater ease. We thank all those who helped make this such a successful event.

Thank you to everyone who has donated this year, whether as a bidder, donor, or sponsor. Your generosity will help to ensure that the Ann Arbor CIL continues to be a community leader in disability services. We are proud to present the 20th Annual Edition of Access 2010, featuring Board President Bob Jamin’s message, a list of significant grants awarded this year, a list of those we served, and more. Please turn the page to see highlights of 2009!

new grants awarded:

This year, the Ann Arbor CIL’s Program Research and Development group was “On a Roll!” Led by Director of Program Research and Development Edward Wollmann, the Center was awarded two significant new federal grants propelling us to a new level of national attention for our work.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services awarded the Center’s Sports and Recreation program $315,000 over the next three years to provide recreational activities and educational experiences for individuals in our disability community. Just a few of the activities made possible through this grant include tennis, cycling, community gardening, visual arts, bowling, and quad rugby. During the next three years this initiative will help us propel the employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community inclusion of our disability community to new heights.

In addition, the U.S. Small Business Administration awarded the Center $1,000,000 over the next five years to provide increased small business development supports to entrepreneurs in our community, and to conduct new research on the effect of social capital development supports in microenterprise programs and the means to increase awareness about effective practices among microenterprise development practitioners across the country. Through this initiative, the Ann Arbor CIL stands to become a nationally-recognized leader in the field of small business development supports for disadvantaged micro-entrepreneurs.

At the Ann Arbor CIL, we understand first-hand what it means to have a disability. That’s because we, too, face the challenges of disability every day. More than fifty percent of our staff, board members and volunteers are people with disabilities.

Founded in February of 1976, we were the fourth Center for Independent Living in the nation. There are now more that 600 CILs across the U.S. and throughout the world.
The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living extends our sincere appreciation to the participants of Access Magazine and Resource Directory. By participating, they have made a financial commitment to the people we reach every day. We are grateful to 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.

**community resources**

**accessibility**

Comerstone Design
940 N. Main Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 663-7580
www.cdiarchitects.com

Comerstone 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.

**acupuncture, herbs & nutrition**

Tree Town Acupuncture
2002 Hogback Rd, Suite 14
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 730-2341
www.TreeTownAcupuncture.com

Tree Town Acupuncture offers Acupuncture, Chinese Herbal Medicine, and Nutrition Response Testing to assist people in restoring, improving and maintaining their health. Nationally certified, Eric Popp, MAc, Dipl Ac, Dipl CH, is dedicated to providing holistic, compassionate, high quality care to help people manage a wide variety of health issues including acute and chronic pain, fatigue, headaches and migraines, autoimmune disorders such as multiple sclerosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis and diabetes, asthma, infertility, menopausal symptoms, PMS and other gynecological disorders, depression, anxiety, insomnia, cancer support and stroke rehabilitation. For more information, please call or visit our website.

**advocacy**

Michigan Ability Partners
3810 Packard, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 973-6800

Michigan Ability Partners is an Ann Arbor-based, non-profit human services agency that partners with people having disabilities related to mental health and substance addiction, offering a menu of services designed to promote self-sufficiency in the areas of homeless recovery, employment, transitional and permanent housing, and financial services. NAP also owns a subsidiary, MAP-HDC, LLC, that develops and operates affordable supported housing for people with disabilities in Washtenaw County.

**arts and entertainment**

The Ark
316 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 761-1800 Office (734) 761-1451 Hotline
Email: ark@theark.org
Web: 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 ½ 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. Please call with any seating concerns or special needs at (734) 761-1800 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or email us at ark@theark.org.

**assistance dog organizations**

Paws With A Cause
4646 S. Division
Wayland, MI 49348
(800) 253-PAWS (7297)
Email: paws@pawswithacause.org
Web: www.pawswithacause.org

Paws With A Cause trains assistance dogs nationally for people with disabilities and provides lifetime team support, which encourages independence. PWS promotes awareness through education. For more information, please call us or visit our website.
Brain Injury Rehabilitation

Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.
Corporate Office/Treatment Center
5570 Whitman Road (PO Box 970230), Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 482-1200 or (800) 968-6644
Web: www.rainbowrehb.com
E-Mail: 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, specially 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 in addition to home and community based services through Rainbow’s functional recovery division.

ResCare Premier
Residential Rehabilitation Continuum
(734) 429-8672
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.

Kalous Case Management
33066 West 7 Mile Rd, Suite 115
Livonia, MI  48152
Phone: (313) 305-9120
Fax: (734) 378-4053
Email: kalousscamanagement@gmail.com

Kalous Case Management is an independently-owned and operated Case Management and Rehabilitation consulting service. Michelle Kalous, RN, has more than 25 years experience as a registered nurse and more than 10 years providing services to clients with spinal cord and head injuries, acquired the business in 2008. Established in 2000, Kalous Case Management provides professional, personalized advocacy for individuals who have been severely injured in motor vehicle accidents. With extensive expertise in rehabilitation and sold relationships with providers and payers, Kalous Case Management is able to obtain those necessary services and products that assist individuals to experience the most independent, quality life possible. Personalized advocacy remains the foundation of the company.

Driving Aids and Services

General Motors Mobility Program with OnStar
P.O. Box 5051
Troy, MI  48007
(800) 323-9935
(800) 990-9935 TTY
www.gmsmobility.com

General Motors is dedicated to making automotive transportation easier and more accessible for people with special needs. Through the GM Mobility Reimbursement Program, customers can get up to $5,000 reimbursement for $1,200 on Chevy Express and GMC Savana PLUS two extra years of OnStar standard service when eligible adaptive equipment is installed on a new eligible GM van. OnStar is the safety and security system created to help protect you on the road. To qualify, vehicle must be adaptive and a claim submitted within 12 months of the date of vehicle purchase/lease. To learn more, please call 1-800-323-9935 or visit gmsmobility.com.

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

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 roof 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 RV’s. 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.
since 1986, the personnel at mobilityworks have been dedicated to satisfying the transportation needs of active people with wheelchairs and scooters. by representing the best equipment in the industry, the sales consultants and technicians find the best long-term solutions for our customers. mobilityworks offers consignment fitting, extensive new and used vehicle inventories, 5000 sq. ft. indoor showroom, financing options, 24-hour help line support, vehicle rentals, customer lounge, and trade-in availability for current adapted van owners.

spartan medical
50762 kawkaw trail
mattawan mi 49071
phone: (866) 894-5118
del (269) 668-9127
www.spartanmedicalsupply.com

spartan medical supply is not only a medical supply company but an all-in-one resource for those with physical disabilities. we are owned by staff, by, and serve individuals with physical impairments. so not only do you rely on us for unsurpassed value and service, but also as a life resource for your recreational needs. this includes adaptive equipment for hunting, fishing, basketball, and many other wheelchair sports. www.spartanmedicalsupply.com

quality home medical equipment, inc.
273 manufactures drive
westland, mi 48186
phone: (734) 721-4821
del (734) 721-9866

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 home beds, patient lifts, ambulatory aids, bathroom accessories and scooters. we specialize in wheelchairs - manual, power, and standing chairs - with great emphasis on patients’ specific needs. our waiting 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.

university of michigan home care services - medequip
2705 s. industrial highway
ann arbor, mi 48104
phone: (734) 971-0975 or (800) 530-0714
www.um-homecare.org

medequip has been the university of michigan health system’s full range home medical equipment and respiratory provider for more than ten years. in conjunction with your physician, our friendly and knowledgeable customer service staff, experienced and highly qualified respiratory therapists, and delivery technicians will help you achieve your health care goals by providing you the best care possible. we offer a broad range of services to meet all of your home medical equipment needs, from ostomy, urological, diabetic testing, and wound care supplies to advanced respiratory, specialty and ambulatory care services. our commitment to the care and well-being of the patient is echoed in everything we do.

wright & filippis
3330 wachter way
ann arbor, mi 48104
(800) 482-0222

for more than 60 years, wright & filippis has been a leader in prosthetics, orthotics, home medical equipment, respiratory care, medical supplies, and barrier-free design. their reputation for providing superior customer service has enabled wright & filippis to build the midwest’s largest full-service company specializing in total physical rehabilitation. with everything from portable oxygen and hospital beds to diabetic supplies and wheelchair lifts, wright & filippis provides michigan’s largest selection of home medical products and services.

quality home medical equipment, inc.
273 manufactures drive
westland, mi 48186
phone: (734) 721-4821
del (734) 721-9866

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energy
emu disability resource center
division of academic affairs
office of retention and student success
eastern michigan university
student center (suite 240)
900 oakwood street
ypsilanti, mi 48197
telephone/tty: (734) 487-2470
http://www.emich.edu/disabilities/

the students with disabilities office ensures that students with disabilities receive the accommodations they need for equal access 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)
5644 haven hall
505 s. state st.
ann arbor, mi 48109-1045
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 staff can assist the need for modified housing, attendants, transportation, classroom accommodations, and adaptive equipment.

washenaw intermediate school district (wisd)
1819 s. wagner
ann arbor, mi 48106-1406
phone: (734) 994-8100
www.wisd.k12.mi.us

washenaw intermediate school district coordinates/delivers programs/services to support continuous improvement of student achievement in the school districts of ann arbor, chesler, dexter, lincoln, manchester, mir, saline, whitmore lake, willow run, ypsilanti, and public school academies. guided by washtenaw county common expectations for student learning, the regional educational service agency:

• provides school improvement consultation, assessment/curriculum/ instruction assistance.
• offers the latest educational training.
• provides consultant/research assistance and resources.
• coordinates program 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 with special needs from birth through age 26.
employment/vocational rehabilitation

Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
3810 Parkard, Suite 170
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 677-1125
http://www.michigan.gov/mrs

MIDLEG-MS is a state- and federally-funded program that partners with individuals with disabilities in preparing for, finding and maintaining employment. The mission of Michigan Rehabilitation Services is to partner with individuals with disabilities and employers to achieve quality employment outcomes and independence for persons with disabilities. There are MIDLEG-MS offices located throughout the state.

health care

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
P.O. Box 440
Southfield, MI 48037
800-485-4415

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, a nonprofit organization, provides and administers health benefits to nearly 7.7 million members residing in Michigan in addition to members of Michigan headquartered groups who reside outside the state. With a unique mission aimed at making quality health care accessible to all Michigan residents, BCBSM accepts everyone for coverage, and works with providers and hospitals to improve the quality of health care services to provide better care to people who need it most. This mission allows us to focus our efforts on giving back to the state we call home by improving the health of Michigan families through supporting:

• Economic Growth
• Michigan's MIChild program to help more than 30,000 children in Michigan
• The Michigan Works program to help job seekers find meaningful employment
• The 2-1-1 service to 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 Wayne counties.

home health/personal assistance

Acclaim Private Home Care, Inc.
3486 Miller Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: (269) 342-7360
Fax: (269) 342-7366
www.acclaimcare.com

Our mission is to provide the highest attainable quality of compassionate home care in a home environment. Acclaim Private Home Care, Inc. works closely with people with disabilities, their families, physicians, case managers, and discharge planners, to ensure a smooth transition to their home. We believe a total care holistic approach, addressing the person's medical and psychological well being. We take pride in the quality of the caregivers that we employ. All caregivers receive extensive training and orientation, and orientation of our staff members (nurse, rehabilitation aide, and therapist). All of our employees are:

• Trained for Total Quality
• Thoroughly Screened and Oriented
• Trained for Skills and Competency
• Trained to use a Multi-Disciplinary Approach in Home Care

Team Leaders have a minimum of one year hands-on experience and any new rehab aide receive a minimum of 100 hours on spinal cord and/or brain injury training prior to being assigned. We customize our services to best fit your SCIC home care needs.

Aegis Health Perspectives, Inc. / Aegis Life Care, LLC
20270 Middlebelt Road, Suite 1
Livonia, MI 48152
(248) 615-1730
www.aegishp.com

Private duty home care programs: Spinal Cord Injury, rehabilitation, therapeutic ultrasound treatments, ventilator care, intravenous infusion therapy. Disciplines: RN, LPN, High Tech RNAs, OTRs, PT, OT. Coverage guaranteed for 24 hour care from 1 hour to 24 hours/7 days/week. RN-owned and operated since 1999. Care may range from minimal assistance with personal care to highly technical and specialized nursing support.

Cord Nurse Association, Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce
Area Agency on Aging 1-B
Livingston/Washtenaw County Access Office
3350 Liberty Road, Suite 2
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(800) 852-7795
www.aaa1b.com

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit organization, offers support, resources, services and information to assist older adults, persons with disabilities or their caregivers. 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 Wayne counties.

Chelsea Rehab, Chelsea Community Hospital
775 S. Main St
Chelsea, MI 48118
(734) 473-4102
www.checlinh.com

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 CCH Wellness Center (734) 473-3947). Visit our web site at www.checlinh.com.

Community Residence Corporation
1851 Westann
Ypsilanti, MI 48193
(734) 482-3300
stevenj@communityresidence.org

Community Residence Corporation (CRC) is a mission to provide people with disabilities, living options, life choices and control of their futures through Supervised Living in licensed group home with 24-hour need or 24-hour supported living in the customer’s home providing support based on individual need.

Comprehensive Community Living Network (our subsidiary) is a Fiscal Intermediary, which provides individuals self-control over their lives and budgets. Customers hire and employ their support staff and CIL is the payroll service producing paychecks and paying employment taxes. Each customer receives monthly statements regarding their financial activity. This service is available in Washtenaw, Jackson, Hillsdale, Livingston, Macomb, and St. Clair Counties.

Glacier Hills Home Care
3900 Research Park Dr., Suite 600
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 769-0578 x1, 1-877-971-4200
www.gllhomecare.org

Service: Medicare certified and CHAP accredited home health care agency provides a comprehensive range of quality care services, including skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, medical social work, medication set-up and educators, and personal care management of acute and chronic illnesses. Private duty nursing oversight includes initial assessment and supervisory visits of home health aides. aides. No-Fee Private Pay, Medicare, other insurance.

Partners in Personal Assistance
1100 N. Main Suite 117
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6534
(734) 214-3899
www.annarborpaa.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 501(c)3 nonprofit organization managed by Consumer Employers and Personal Assistants. Services can be covered by private funds, insurance, and Medicaid for long term care programs.

ResCare HomeCare (formerly First 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: 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.

The Services We Provide:
• Personal Assistance
• Medication Reminders
• Companionship and Conversation
• Nutritional Meal Preparation
• Every Day Living
Silver Maples of Chelsea
100 Silver Maples Drive I
Chelsea, MI 48118
(734) 475-4111
Web: www.silvermaples.org

Silver Maples of Chelsea is a well-designed, comfortably-stayed retirement community that offers independent residential-style living and licensed assisted living accommodations, with a continuum of care for Skilled Nursing and Memory Care with a priority access basis through our sponsors. Silver Maples was founded in 1997 with a goal of addressing the needs of individuals 60 years or better, by developing a community that will enrich their lives through opportunities, wellness and will provided caring assistance when needed.

University of Michigan Home Care Services - Michigan Visiting Care
2850 S. Industrial Highway, Suite 75
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 842-5504
Web: www.um-homecare.org

Michigan Visiting Care services include both medical and non-medical care in the home. We believe in an individualized and integrated approach to determining the desired level of care for each client. This includes the patient, family members and one or our highly trained and educated Registered Nurse supervisors. By formulating an integrated and individualized plan of care, our staff is able to provide outstanding quality care to you and your loved ones.

Heberle & Finnegan, PLLC
2500 Craig Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 302-3233
(734) 302-3234 fax
mff@heberlelaw.com

Heberle & Finnegan, PLLC is an Ann Arbor law firm concentrating in plaintiffs’-side civil rights litigation. In the area of disability rights, the firm represents individuals, organizations and advocacy groups in cases brought to improve access to public accommodations, government facilities and services, housing, employment and education. The firm has successfully used dozens of municipalities throughout Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania to require installation and retrofitting of curb ramps. In a recent settlement in a fair housing case in Canton township, the developers and the Township performed installation and retrofitting of curb ramps. In a recent settlement in a fair housing case in Ann Arbor, the firm represented the plaintiffs and obtained a settlement of roughly $2,500,000 worth of retrofits to a large “New Urbanism” community and paid the plaintiffs more than $200,000.00 in damages and attorney fees. A recent settlement in a fair housing case in Erie Pennsylvania caused a developer to build 80 new accessible housing units and pay the plaintiffs more than $200,000.00 in damages and attorney fees. A recent settlement in a fair housing case in Canton township, the developers and the Township performed installation and retrofitting of curb ramps. In a recent settlement in a fair housing case in Erie Pennsylvania caused a developer to build 80 new accessible housing units and pay the plaintiffs more than $200,000.00 in damages and attorney fees.

Arete Coaching and Consulting, Inc.
3586 Plymouth Rd. #225
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1903
Phone: (734) 385-4317
Fax: (734) 730-7091
Email: peige@aretecoach.com
Web: www.aretecoach.com

Arete Coaching and Consulting, Inc. is a social entrepreneurship that helps individuals maximize their abilities while honoring their disabilities. Through coaching you will: 
- see your strengths and liabilities
- make the most of your assets and abilities
- embrace your potential for success
- become empowered to accomplish things that you never thought possible Coaching helps you to take the necessary steps to make your dreams a reality!

NACHT & ASSOCIATES, PC
(734) 663-7550
dblanchard@nachtlaw.com

Nacht & Associates is a full-service law firm with a commitment to standing up for individuals when they need it most. Our lawyers help workers confront disability discrimination head on and they advocate for individuals and groups on accommodation and medical leave issues. Other areas of practice include employee rights and benefits, sexual harassment, commercial litigation, consumer protection, housing discrimination, landlord-tenant matters, and criminal defense.

From our home office in Ann Arbor, we serve clients throughout Michigan. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please visit our website or contact an attorney at Nacht & Associates, PC, today.

 library services

Ann Arbor District Library
www.aadl.org

Branch Locations:
Downtown Library: 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mallett Creek: 3900 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Pittsfield: 2150 Old 27th Street Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Traverwood: 3333 Traverwood Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48105
West: 2503 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Wadsworth Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL: 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104, (734) 327-4424, www.wblpaadl.org
AADL circulates books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audio books and art prints. Large-print books, low-sight aids, foreign-language books, and books for non-native speakers of English are available. AADL offers a wide variety of programs, including lectures, panel discussions, musical events and public internet classes. Internet access, word processing, research databases, and other software programs are also available at all AADL locations.

The WBLP collection is housed in downtown AADL. The free service, available to Washtenaw County residents, loans books, magazines, and produces alternative formats (recorded cassette, digital cartridge, Braille and descriptive video) to individuals of all ages who are certified as unable to read or use standard print materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations. This service is administered by the Ann Arbor District Library. Materials are shipped free to your home and are mailed back free to AADL.

AAPD hours: Mon. 10 am to 9 pm; Tues. - Fri. 9 am to 9 pm; Sat. 9 am to 6 pm; Sun. noon to 6 pm.

life coaching

Arette Coaching and Consulting, Inc.
3586 Plymouth Rd. #225
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1903
Phone: (734) 385-4317
Fax: (734) 730-7091
Email: peige@aretecoach.com
Web: www.aretecoach.com

Arette Coaching and Consulting, Inc. is a social entrepreneurship that helps individuals maximize their abilities while honoring their disabilities. Through coaching you will: 
- see your strengths and liabilities
- make the most of your assets and abilities
- embrace your potential for success
- become empowered to accomplish things that you never thought possible Coaching helps you to take the necessary steps to make your dreams a reality!

Services include:
- Health Coaching to achieve and maintain personal wellness.
- Make the most of your assets and abilities.
- Become empowered to accomplish things that you never thought possible.
- Make your dreams a reality!

medical services in home

University of Michigan Home Care Services - HomeMed
2850 S. Industrial Highway, Suite 75
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 302-3234 fax
(800) 862-2731
Web: www.um-homecare.org

Arete Coaching and Consulting, Inc.
3586 Plymouth Rd. #225
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1903
Phone: (734) 385-4317
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Services include:
- Health Coaching to achieve and maintain personal wellness.
- Make the most of your assets and abilities.
- Become empowered to accomplish things that you never thought possible.
- Make your dreams a reality!

optical/low vision

Dr. Steven Bennett, F.A.A.O.
Certified Low Vision Specialist
2000 Green Road, 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 biopptic telescopes for driving, microscopic systems for reading and computer use, electronic vision systems and new LED lighted magnifiers allow our patients to maintain their independence. Our new Low Vision Resource Center has all these devices available to view. The general public can view them without appointment.

We work with a team of professionals to provide our Low Vision patients with the best possible outcome to enhance their vision. We also work with our patient’s family to educate and help them assist in the use of the devices. Our approach provides a warm and comfortable environment to achieve the best results. For more information Please contact Sarah at (734) 930-2373.

W.K. Kellogg Eye Center
1000 Wall Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 764-5106
Web: 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 includes Dr. Donna Wolfe, O.D. and Dr. Sherry Day, O.D., working cooperatively with our occupational therapist, Karen Murphy, OTR.

Because of our multi-disciplinary approach, the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation Services Clinic carries to life the 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 or office, to develop the most appropriate environment for the patient. The low vision team teaches patients how to use adaptive devices and make better use of the remaining vision to assure they are functioning well in their daily lives.
AATA A-Ride

A-Ride is a shared-ride, demand-responsive, public transportation service for individuals whose disability prevents them from riding the regular fixed-route buses. Trips are provided using lift-equipped vehicles and taxicabs. A-Ride service is provided within 1/4 of a mile from regular fixed routes in the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti plus Pittsfield, Superior and Ypsilanti townships. The fare is $2.50 per trip by advance reservation or $3.50 for same-day service, and can be paid with cash or pre-purchased trip tickets. Applications for the A-Ride program are available on the AATA website: www.theride.org, by calling (734) 973-6500, or by visiting AATA main office at 2700 S. Industrial Hwy, or the Blake Transit Center in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor.

Rehab Transportation

4180 Ford Rd, Ste 202
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 981-1480 or (900) 306-4906

Rehab Transportation offers personalized, attentive and expert transportation for persons with special needs throughout Southwestern Michigan. Vehicles featuring hydraulic lifts with 600 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.

RideConnect

705 N. Zeib Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48101
(734)222-9580
www.rideconnect.info

RideConnect is a coordination center that provides individuals with information and referrals on available transportation options. This information is based on their needs in Washtenaw County and selected areas in Jackson, Livonia, Livingston, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne Counties. RideConnect also coordinates services among existing public, private, and non-profit transportation and human service transportation providers. RideConnect increases the effectiveness of the affordable, accessible, safe, reliable transportation options for residents of Washtenaw County.

Need a Ride?...we can connect you, call 818-977-4411 or visit us at www.rideconnect.info and plan your trip...

Select Ride, Inc.

Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 663-5959
TDD/TTY (734) 663-5994

Select Ride is pleased to offer accessible transportation through its Arbor Limoavation 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, minivans, or limousines. We go anyway...whether you need a trip across town and the airport... whatever you need to get. For more information or to schedule your next trip, please call Arbor Limoavation at 663-5959.

Wheelchair Getaways

6005 Cascadilla Way
Highland, MI 48337
(888) 887-7688

Wheelchair Getaways rents vans for the day, week, or month to persons with disabilities. Our vans include full-size conversion vans with raised roof, rear 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.

recognition & fitness

The Ann Arbor YMCA

400 West Washington Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
(734) 996-9622
www.annarborymca.org

For people with special physical needs, the Ann Arbor YMCA offers an Sci Fit Exercise, new Na Steps, an elevated stretch bench and several weight training accessories that can be utilized from a seated position. Slower paced exercise classes with outdated options and one-on-one training options are also available. Our Aquatics Center features a zero-depth entry pool and a six-lane 25 yard lap pool, plus a portable lift for use with either pool. We have shower benches in our adult locker rooms and individual changing rooms for those needing assistance or wheelchair space. On-site parking, including handicap parking, is available for members.

Michigan Thunderbirds Wheelchair Sports

3941 Research Park Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 971-0277 x33
Email: tbirds@aaic.org
Web: www.michiganturbirds.org

The Thunderbirds provide competitive sports opportunities for athletes with disabilities. We have an adult and two junior wheelchair basketball teams and are active in handicap wrestling, and other sports. When not competing, the Thunderbirds put on basketball and hand cycling 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 Glenn Anstine at (734) 971-0277 x33 or tbirds@aaic.org

transportation and rentals

Ann Arbor Transportation Authority

2700 S. Industrial Hwy
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The AAATA 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) 973-6907 (TTD), at the AAATA website: www.aaata.org and in alternative formats by request. For information or an application for specialized service, call (734) 973-6500.

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Select Ride, Inc.

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Wheelchair Getaways

6005 Cascadilla Way
Highland, MI 48337
(888) 887-7688

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recreational directory

The University of Michigan Health System
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, The Spine Program
325 S. Eisenhower Parkway
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-5744
Phone: (734) 936-7175
Fax: (734) 764-9439
www.med.umich.edu/pmr/spine

The University of Michigan Health System Spine Program 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 physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, and exercise specialists.

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Wheelchair Seating Services

Washenaw Youth Mentoring Coalition
3815 Research Park Dr
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 971-0277
jak@aadil.org
www.washyouthmentoring.org

Aquila Corporation manufactures high-quality wheelchair cushion systems. Over the past 15 years, Aquila has custom-made more than 2,000 systems for clients worldwide. Every cushion system is custom-made to each individual’s specific physical characteristics and health status for maximum effectiveness. The AirPulse PK powered wheelchair cushion system was designed for those clients who currently have or are at high-risk for pressure sores. Alternate cells are automatically inflated/deflated to the desired firmness on an adjustable timed cycle for pressure relief and increased circulation to help heal and prevent pressure sores.

University of Michigan Home Care Services - Wheelchair Seating Service
2500 E. Industrial Hwy, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 971-8286 or (877)868-8889
www.um-homecare.org

With over 40 years of experience and the most certified rehabilitation engineers in the state of Michigan, the University of Michigan Home Care Wheelchair Seating Service is the leading provider of custom mobility products in the area. From the initial evaluation to service after delivery, our priority is to provide the very best mobility product for each of our patients. Although our service offerings are considered premium, our cost is not. In most cases, our charges are close to or below other wheelchair providers.

Needing a Ride? we can connect you.
call 1-866-977-9423
or visit us at www.RideConnect.info
and plan your trip.

Need a Ride?
we can connect you.
call 1-866-977-9423
or visit us at www.RideConnect.info
and plan your trip.

youth services

Washenaw Youth Mentoring Coalition
202 E Huron St, Suite 101
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 761-3005
www.youthempowerment.com

The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) generates youth-powered solutions for community and school issues. YEP hosts seven youth initiated and youth-led programs, including the Youth Senate and Youth On Brand, that use five approaches to civic engagement: service-learning, decision-making, youth-organized community service, youth-organized philanthropy and social entrepreneurship.
YES!

I want to support the mission of the Ann Arbor CIL.

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ Other $________

Please make check payable to: Ann Arbor CIL

Or charge my  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

(Write card number below.)

Signature ________________________________

Exp. date: __________

☐ My company’s matching gift form is enclosed.

Thank you for your support.

Annn Arbor, MI 48108

Phone:  (734) 971-0826

e-mail: that@aacil.org

To select your ride, please call

734-665-1028

Select RIDE

You can count on us for all your transportation needs.

• Taxicab
• Luxury Limousine
• Airport Shuttle
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is a proud recipient of the US Business Leadership Network’s 2009 Lead Employer of the Year award for exemplifying best practices in hiring, retaining and advancing workers with disabilities, and partnering with other employers to initiate, establish and expand opportunities for employees with disabilities in the workplace.