

2 0 0 6 S U M M E R E D I T I O N

ALTERNATIVES IN MOTION

The Mission: Provide wheelchairs to people who need them but cannot afford them, and who do not qualify for any other financial assistance.



✧ Our New Home Downtown ✧

By: George Ranville, Executive Director
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Our new location in the Goodwill Urban Center, on the corner of Sheldon Blvd. and Wealthy Street, has worked out great for us! The location is just

3 blocks west of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital on Wealthy. It's easy to get to, close to the Wealthy Street freeway exit ramp from

US-131, and only three exits south of US-196. Being downtown we are close to the medical community, convenient for our vendors, easy to find for our donors and accessible for our recipients. Plus, we have lots of warehouse space for our inventory

of used wheelchairs, with loading docks and overhead doors for easy access and delivery. The people at Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids

graciously welcomed us to collocate in their building and they have been fantastic to work with. Many thanks to Phil Weaver of Goodwill Industries of



Greater Grand Rapids, VanderKodde construction for modifying our space, and Tom Courtright for coordinating the move. Please come and visit us!

A Recent Recipient

Kindergarten can be challenging and scary enough for a little girl just starting school. But, when you can't get around and can barely make your crutches go, it's just too much. That's when Meryt's

teachers at East Kelloggsville Elementary School in Grand Rapids, MI stepped in and called Alternatives in Motion to help out. We had several chairs to choose from. She picked the red one! Teachers say that using the wheelchair made a big difference in school for this little girl. To

show their appreciation, the school held a fundraiser for Alternatives in Motion.



Address: 355 Sheldon Blvd. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Phone:(616) 493-2620

Web: www.alternativesinmotion.org



Wheel Run Together Celebrates 10 Years

On a cool May morning, runners gathered to race across the beautiful Allendale campus of Grand Valley State University for the 10th annual Wheel Run Together 5k Run and 1-mile walk. Organized by the GVSU Physical Therapy students, the proceeds once again went to help Alternatives in Motion. \$5,032.00. was presented to Johnnie Tuitel by race director Sarah Benson. Runners and walkers alike said the new course through campus is one of the prettiest they have ever run. Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to Sarah.

Mark your calendar for next year's race to be held March 24, 2007!

Reading for Mobility

Beginning in the fall of 2006 we are re-invigorating our school fundraising with a new read-a-thon for Alternatives in Motion. The event will promote literacy and community service, plus will involve several Michigan authors including Johnnie Tuitel and Sharon Lamson and their internationally recognized *Gun Lake Adventure Series*. Our goal is to have 100 schools participate in the read-a-thon during the school year

Last year, because of natural disasters, many of our school friends understandably decided to raise money for disaster relief instead of for Alternatives in Motion.

Please don't forget your local charities when it comes time for service learning projects. And let's hope for a light hurricane season!



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A Special Recipient Story

*By Liz Spieker, Program Coordinator
Email: lspieker@alternativesinmotion.org*

In February, Alternatives in Motion was contacted about Myrna, an Iowa woman, who was in need of a manual wheelchair. At that point, funding was down and the waiting list long, so we were unable to provide immediate assistance. During conversation with Myrna's daughter, the idea was discussed for family members to designate gifts for Myrna's wheelchair through Alternatives in Motion.

Myrna's immediate family soon contacted other family members and friends through letters asking for financial gifts to help with the purchase of the necessary manual chair. The gifts were to be made through Alternatives in Motion and designated solely for Myrna's chair. The response from Myrna's friends and family was tremendous! Within two months, the chair and all necessary seating and accessories were covered, along with a gift of thanks to Alternatives in Motion for our assistance.

Not only did Myrna receive her chair, she and her family also received the gift of love and support that words cannot adequately express. Thank you to all who were actively involved in being an awesome example of family and friends that really love and care for each other!

A note from the family

We as a family would like to send our many thanks to Liz Spieker and Alternatives in Motion. Without them we would not have been able to get this chair for our mother. Mom has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) for 20 years and has spent 14 of those years in the same manual wheelchair. As time passed, we slowly watched her slouch more and more as her body was being crippled and conformed to the old chair. It was sad to watch, but after being denied help in the past, we had no idea where to turn.

Liz was excited to take on this great task with us, and the result has been more than overwhelming. Since receiving her new chair, we have seen Myrna sit straighter, breath better, and have a smile on her face once again. Thank you to Alternatives in Motion, National Seating and Mobility of Urbandale, IA, and all the individuals who helped raise money.





“What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic



Join Alternatives in Motion on Wednesday September 13, 2006 for the Second Annual “What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic at **Thousand Oaks Golf Club** in

Grand Rapids, MI. Last year were able raise over \$13,000 for our charity to help purchase wheelchairs for individuals with no health insurance. This year we have moved the

outing to one of the premiere golf destinations in Michigan. **Golf Digest** has rated Thousand Oaks and its Rees Jones signature course "4 1/2 stars Places to Play" and one of the 25 best golf courses in Michigan.

To register your foursome, log onto our web site at **www.alternativesinmotion.org**. The cost of this years event is \$125 per person for 18-holes of golf with a cart and dinner following. A silent auction will be held during dinner where players will have several opportunities to win autographed sports memorabilia and other prizes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP 13
“What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic

OCT. 29
Grand Rapids Marathon

MAR 24
11th Annual Wheel Run Together

WHEELCHAIR DONATIONS



Our wheelchair donation program has gotten off to a great start this year. We have received a large number of new or slightly used wheelchairs that we have

been able to place with recipients. These donations have enabled us to help more people in a shorter amount of time. If you know of anyone who has new or slightly used mobility equipment have them call **(616) 493-2620** today. All donations are tax deductible.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY!

Did you know the average cost of a manual wheelchair is \$4,000? Help us help others by making a monetary contribution to

Alternatives in Motion. Every dollar you donate, helps us get that much closer to giving someone the gift of mobility.

Please send your contribution to:

Alternatives in Motion
355 Sheldon Blvd. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

