

ALTERNATIVES IN MOTION

The Mission: Provide wheelchairs to individuals who do not qualify for other assistance, and who could not obtain such equipment without financial aid.

Alternatives In
Motion

Meet Krysta, The Smile of Independence

The holiday season was extra special this year for 27-year old Krysta Billock when she received the gift of mobility from Alternatives in Motion.

Billock was born with spina bifida but has not let that discourage her in any way. For the last 10 years she has been a smiling employee of Forest Hills Foods in Grand Rapids, MI. Using one of the stores mobility carts Krysta happily goes about re-stocking shelves and greeting customers in the checkout line. When Alternatives in Motion Founder Johnnie Tuitel asked Krysta why she was using the store cart she replied by saying she needed her own but didn't have any plans to buy one.

That's when Alternatives in Motion stepped in and donated a power scooter to Krysta. Surrounded by her friends, family, and co-workers we surprised Krysta at work shortly before Christmas.

"Oh, my gosh. Thank you so much, it is gorgeous," Krysta hollered as the chair was brought into the room. Krysta was also excited about the fact her new scooter has a seat elevator. "I can put things on the top shelves, you guys! I don't need help anymore," she said.

A special thank you goes out to the employees of Forest Hills Food for letting us surprise Krysta at work. To see video coverage of this story log onto www.youtube.com and search "The Gift of Mobility".



Krysta takes a quick break from stocking shelves at Forest Hills foods to smile for the camera and show off her new scooter from Alternatives in Motion.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet Krysta...Pg. 1

YouTube.com...Pg. 1

Meet Our Recent Recipients...Pg. 2

Charity Coms Full Circle...Pg. 3

Board of Directors...Pg.3

E-Newsletter...Pg. 4

Wish List...Pg. 4

"What's Your Handicap?" ...Pg. 4

YouTube.com:

Alternatives in Motion has teamed up with the online video giant YouTube to participate in their nonprofit partners program. As a result they sent us a free "Flip Video" digital video camera. We were one of the first 300

nonprofit organizations selected for this program.

See first hand how powerful The Gift of Mobility can be. Log onto www.youtube.com and type "Alternatives in Motion" in the search box. We currently have five videos available and will be adding more as soon as possible.

Don't forget to share the videos with your friends!





Meet Our Recent Recipients



Daniel:

Daniel was familiar with Alternatives in Motion after receiving his first three-wheeled motorized scooter from us back in 2003. Daniel used his scooter to take the bus around town. After a change in his condition the old scooter starting becoming more and more complicated for him to maneuver. Daniel contacted Alternatives in Motion again and asked for a different scooter that would allow him easier maneuverability.

Our staff visited Daniel shortly after his birthday and provided him with a nearly new HoverRound Power scooter that had recently been donated to us by a family from the Kentwood area. Daniel took such great care of his older scooter that we were able to donate it to another individual here in Grand Rapids who now uses it when she is at work. This is just one more example of how donated equipment helps us provide the gift of mobility.

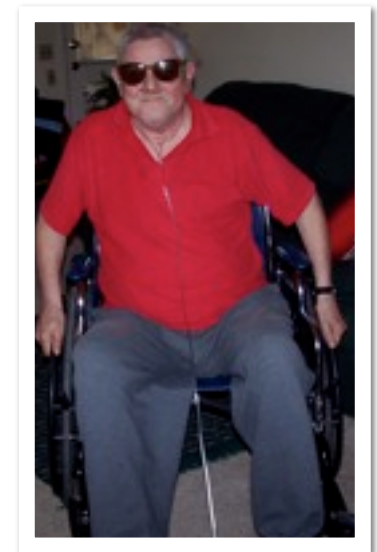
“This is like a belated birthday present. Alternatives in Motion is really great!”
-Daniel

Gary:

After a three and a half month hospital stay, Gary found himself learning to walk all over again. With therapy and practice Gary was only able to walk 10-15 feet before he would be out breath and start to stumble. This left Gary stranded in his home. He couldn't go outside, couldn't go shopping, and he couldn't be out at family picnics.

After receiving Gary's application we went down to our warehouse and found a manual chair that was perfect for Gary's needs. His friends and family can fold the chair up and load it into the car so Gary can get out of the house. We delivered the chair to Gary's home just in time for him to make it to his 6-year-old grandson's school concert.

Gary has two grandsons, ages six and nine, and he is excited to become more active in their lives. Gary tells us the chair is wonderful and that he is looking forward to participating in family picnics and taking his grandson's fishing once the weather warms up.



“It was a surprise. This chair is a real lifesaver for me. I'm totally happy”
-Gary

Charity Comes Full Circle:

When middle school and high school students from around the state started raising money for Alternatives in Motion, the 2007-2008 Charity of the Year, they never thought they would be helping one of their own members. That's exactly what happened when Kadi Pojeta found herself recovering from knee surgery.



Kadi is the Coordinator of Student Leadership Services for the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP). Kadi received orders from her doctor to stay off her leg for three weeks. When she told the doctor she was planning a conference where she would be on her feet for 12-15 hours a day for four days, he said she would have to seek another alternative to get around the conference.



Kadi called Alternatives in Motion to see if we had a wheelchair she could use on a temporary basis. We had two chairs that met her needs. We delivered the chairs to her office on Thursday March 27 and let her take them for a test drive. The wheelchairs will allow Kadi to not only continue working, but also to go to the movies and to the gym with her husband Richard. We would like to wish Kadi a speedy recovery and thank her for all of her hard work coordinating the Charity of the Year program for the Michigan Association of Student Councils and for the Michigan Association of Honor Societies (MASC/MAHS). Under Kadi's leadership, students from around the state were inspired to get creative with their fundraising efforts. From drag shows to duct tape we saw it all. Thank you MASC/MAHS!

A Note From Kadi:

"Thank you for your generosity with these chairs! What you are doing for people that have mobility restrictions is life-altering. From being confined to a place to having the freedom to live, be and do-its an incredible experience. Even if my restriction is only temporary, it certainly gave me a chance to see the world through someone else's eyes. Thank you for your help, it is much appreciated! I know that when MASC/MAHS works with Alternatives in Motion, good things are happening for people all over Michigan-we are helping them LIVE IN MOTION!"



Students from Pinckney HS cheer as they duct tape their principal to a pole for a fundraiser to benefit Alternatives in Motion.

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Electronic Newsletter Sign Up:

Would you like to receive this newsletter in your email inbox? In an effort to reduce costs and keep up with new technology we are currently developing an electronic version of this newsletter. If you want to receive the Alternatives in Motion e-newsletter please email: info@alternativesinmotion.org with the word E-NEWS in the subject line.* We hope to have this technology in place by mid-summer and are excited for the changes it will bring. Thank you for your support while we continue to provide for unmet mobility needs!

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list altogether, please email: info@alternativesinmotion.org with the word REMOVE (Your Name) in the subject line. You may also call our office at (616) 493-2620.

(*Please note your email will be used solely for the distribution of our e-newsletter and will not be sold to any listing agency)

Alternatives in Motion Wish List:

The response from the Holiday Wish List was fantastic! Thank you to Hendon and Slate Companies for donating several used metal filing cabinets and thank you to the ladies of Psi Iota Xi for purchasing a 6' folding wheelchair ramp. Both of these items were on our holiday wish list and have been put to great use.

The items on this list help us make our day to day operations easier and more efficient. Please consider supporting us by donating items from our wish list:

1. Used van with wheelchair lift
2. Used cargo van in good condition
3. Television with VCR/DVD input jacks
4. Basic tools/toolbox and equipment for repairing wheelchairs
5. Large plastic tubs to store wheelchair parts
6. Portable air compressor with tire inflation chuck and blow gun attachment



George uses the new folding ramp to load a wheelchair into his van for delivery.

“What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic

On Monday August 11th we will tee off at Thousand Oaks Golf Club for the 4th Annual “What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic. This shotgun event will start at 1:00p.m. and conclude with a dinner and silent auction following a great day of golf. The cost is \$125 per person for 18 holes of golf with a cart, box lunch, and dinner. Sponsorship information is available by contacting Matt Chapman at mchapman@tapshoe.com.

