

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

## Economically Friendly Edition

You've read the headlines, heard the statistics, and more than likely you have felt the "economic pinch" yourself. We feel it too but we aren't letting it stop us from moving people forward. For 15 years Alternatives in Motion has been providing independence and mobility to those who need it most and we continue to do so despite the current economy.

You will notice we've scaled back this edition of the newsletter. We feel it's important to communicate with our donors and supporters but we also want to be mindful of the sacrifices you make to support our cause. Each day we are taking steps to reduce the overall cost of our daily operations and we are taking advantage of the technology and affordable resources available in today's digital age.

You can help us reduce costs by signing up for the e-version of the Alternatives in Motion newsletter. The e-newsletter will have the same great recipient stories, photos, and special event updates seen in our paper newsletter with a significant reduction in mailing costs and staff preparation time. Plus when you receive the e-newsletter you have the opportunity to make safe and secure online donations.

To sign up for the free e-newsletter visit [www.alternativesinmotion.org](http://www.alternativesinmotion.org) and click on the newsletter sign up link. For those who do not sign up for the electronic newsletter, please be patient as we will continue to produce the scaled back version while we seek more cost effective production and mailing methods.



The economy might be down but we are still helping people like John with unmet mobility needs.

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## Would you like to win \$10,000?



Who wouldn't? We are giving you that opportunity at the 5th Annual "What's Your Handicap?" Golf Classic. This year the event features a new date, a new course, and a \$10,000 hole-in one cash prize. There is also a chance to win a golf getaway for two at the Garland Resort, a Nascar experience trip, or a golf trip for two from one of 250 nationwide destinations. Not to mention we will have a bunch of other raffle prizes, golfer goodies, and silent auction items for you to take home as well.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday May 19, 2009 at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club in Grand Rapids, MI. The cost is \$125 per player for 18 holes of golf w/ cart, boxed lunch, dinner, and one free raffle ticket. What better way to recover from a long cold winter than with a spring golf outing? More information, sponsorship opportunities, and online player registration is available at [www.alternativesinmotion.org/golf](http://www.alternativesinmotion.org/golf). Register today!

# Meet Shirley

Shirley first came to Alternatives in Motion in 2007 when she needed assistance with a repair charge on her power chair. In early 2009 her chair was stolen, leaving her without the necessary transportation to continue her daily routine. Knowing we have helped people in similar situations, Shirley called us again to see if we could help. Thankfully a very nice power chair had recently been donated and was exactly what she needed. Shirley was grateful for Alternatives in Motion and was excited to have her freedom once again.

Shirley's chair is one of 14 donated wheelchairs we have refurbished and placed back in the community so far this year. We are committed to recovering these nearly new and gently used wheelchairs so we can continue to keep people like Shirley independent and mobile.



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# Sheila in Motion



Shiela was referred to us by our friends over at Disability Advocates of Kenty County after a severe fracture left her looking for an alternative method of transportation. We gave Shelia a gently used power chair and her landlord built a ramp so she could come and go as she pleased. Not only was Shelia glad the chair would help her around the apartment but she was also looking forward to having the chance to travel to the local shops and restaurants.

We followed up with Shelia shortly after the snow melted and she was excited for the warmer weather. She said she has been busy traveling the neighborhood and has been enjoying the time she is able to spend with her nine children and sixteen grandchildren. Shelia is truly excited to be living her life in motion!

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# Wheel Run Together 5k & 10k Race

On Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> more than 125 runners hit the campus of Grand Valley State University for the 13<sup>th</sup> running of the Wheel Run Together 5k & 10k race. Second year Physical Therapy students plan the annual spring event that raised nearly \$2,400 for Alternatives in Motion.

A new starting venue featured the beautiful Laker Turf facility and a change in the course brought runners into Lubber's Stadium for a lap around the track. We would like to thank this year's race coordinator Jody Mohle, her classmates, the corporate sponsors, and all of the runners who showed up to support Alternatives in Motion.

