

DP EXPRESS

Winter 2016- 2017

David's Vision



David Maennle's story is a great example of how technology can promote independence and create customized outcomes for people with disabilities. David is an accomplished young man who won't take no for an answer. Diagnosed with down's syndrome as an infant, David has established very specific goals for his home, workplace and community. He has graduated from Western Carolina University's University Participant program, formed friendships with people with and without disabilities, successfully completed internships related to emergency medical care and athletic injuries, obtained a job with the Graham County EMS and frequently volunteers in his community.

David uses a SimplyHome system (a customized integration of assistive technology) to promote residential safety, to adhere to a daily schedule and to enable his family members to provide a natural level of support without intruding on his independence and privacy. SimplyHome is an Asheville, NC based company known for its affordable and dignified solutions for independent living. David utilizes customized verbal prompts and various sensors throughout his home to reach outcomes related to cooking his own meals, completing a morning routine of self-care before he heads to work, ensuring he meets his health needs every day and accessing help quickly if needed.

Watch a Video of David Giving a Tour of His Apartment Here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfxBtINiGkg&index=8&list=PLRS-Gp9IXsTa6pwh28KZsrHMFLQ3Ed_tG

David's mother Becky, an outspoken advocate for inclusion, also has a unique perspective on the use of technology to promote independence for people with disabilities. Becky works as the Finance Officer of Graham County, NC. Because of her position in finance,

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David's Vision (continued)

Becky is keenly aware that David's chosen lifestyle not only promotes his desired goals for his life, but ends up being a cost-effective way to support people with disabilities.

Comparing North Carolina's typical costs for providing group home or institution-based support services to someone with disabilities similar to David's, Becky has calculated that David's chosen, independent lifestyle, supported by assistive technology, saves the state almost \$100,000 annually. Becky said, "Beyond cost, the big factor is his quality of life, and his ability to navigate life himself, which is priceless."

What can technology do for you and your family? If you are interested in learning more about SimplyHome's products and services, or are ready to set up a complimentary assessment or demo apartment tour, please visit our website www.simply-home.com or contact us at 877-684-3581.

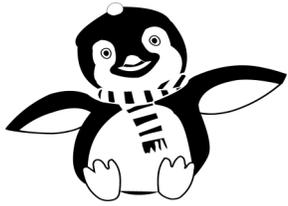
NEW STAFF AT DISABILITY PARTNERS

Alex Drown has joined the DisAbility Partners team as an Independent Living Specialist. Originally from the Chicago suburbs, Alex has now been living in Marshall for four years. She has worked at several schools and organizations in the area serving children and adolescents with disabilities and their families. Alex is excited for this opportunity to learn, grow, and serve at DisAbility Partners. In her free time Alex enjoys gardening, knitting, cooking and spending time outdoors with her dog.

Edward Ruschmann has been a regular at DisAbility Partners refurbishing computers for the Cyberpals Program since he first started volunteering December 2015. In September 2016, he was hired on to be the CyberPals Program Coordinator. Edward is an engineer with over 40 years of industrial electronics experience. As a former Marine, he brings a 'can do' approach to all his work.

DISABILITY PARTNERS' HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

DisAbility Partners will be closed for the holidays starting Friday December 23, 2016 and will re-open Monday, January 2, 2017. The staff at DisAbility Partners wishes everyone to have a safe and happy holiday.



MOVING FORWARD WITH THE ACCESSIBLE ICON PROJECT

If you visit the DisAbility Partners Asheville Office, you will notice that we have the new Accessible Icon on our accessible parking spaces. The new icon transforms the well-known International Symbol that has been used for years into an active, engaged image. The Project is an on-going work of design beginning with this new graphic and continues with its use among persons with disabilities and their allies in creating a more accessible world.

The City of New Bern, North Carolina was the first city to officially adopt the Icon Project, with Durham following next. The Project has continued onward with Craven Community College, Craven County Schools, Catawba College, Hanging Rock State Park & Fort Macon State Park and Asheville's own Visitors Center.

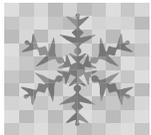
The new icon shows a person using a chair with motion; an active person and the decision maker about his or her own mobility. Showing a body in motion symbolizes an active person navigating the world. The wheel cutouts and leg position of the new icon both bring home the message that chair users are both active and involved.

The human form shown in the icon is approved for compliance by the Chief Accessibility Code Official for the state of North Carolina. "Both Federal and State Officials have determined that slight variations on the historical International Symbol of Accessibility are generally permissible as long as the symbol clearly displays a wheelchair and signifies accessibility."

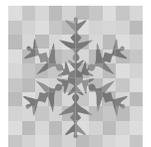
The Accessible Icon is free for use in public areas. For more information or to get your business, town or organization involved, please contact Brendon Hildreth, Regional Director, The Accessible Icon Project, North Carolina at bwhildreth@msn.com or Darcy Hildreth at dwhildreth@msn.com.



Pathways for the Future dba
Western Alliance
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DISABILITY PARTNERS EXPRESS



DisAbility Partners Events

Friday, December 9– Christmas Arts and Crafts 2-4 pm. Please share your ideas and creativity. Supplies will be provided.

Friday, December 9– Holiday dinner 4 pm. We will provide the turkey and the fixings in celebration of the holidays with our consumers.

Friday, January 13- Financial Fun- 2-4 pm. You are invited to participate in an interactive session about money and financial visions.

Friday, January 13- Warm up with a bowl of soup. 4 pm. We will provide the soup. Suggested items to bring : crackers, cornbread, bread, salad, dessert, drinks.

Friday, February 9- Movie and Popcorn 2-4. Showing: An inspirational film, Running for Jim.

Friday, February 9- Spaghetti Night– 4 pm. We will provide the spaghetti. Suggested items to bring: crusty bread, French bread or bread sticks, salad, parmesan cheese, dessert, drinks.