



Accessible Space, Inc.

HOUSING WITH CARE®

JASON SOMMERFELD

A Veteran Just Keeps Smiling



Jason K. Sommerfeld was only nine years old, jumping on a trampoline, when he came down headfirst and crushed his skull against a support bar. He needed 140 stitches.

Although he healed, he often had trouble paying attention in school after that. In high school, he played football, “back in the day when it was really great to break a helmet or face mask.” The long-term significance of brain injuries weren’t well known back then.

Jason enjoys a full life of volunteerism, ongoing education at a local college, and training time with Boomer, his service dog.



In 1997, Jason had completed his service in the U.S. Navy and was working as a Las Vegas taxi driver when he suffered a TIA—a transient ischemic attack. This small, stroke-like incident landed him in the hospital for four days. Ten years later, a serious stroke put him in the hospital—and a wheelchair.

Jason got connected with ASI's Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP), a brain injury rehabilitation service of Accessible Space, Inc. "I was in sad shape," he remembers. "I wasn't able to speak clearly and had severe cognitive issues." For six months, five days a week, Jason received occupational and physical therapy. "Thanks to NCEP," he says, "I was

able to re-learn how to communicate."

The next challenge was housing. Now that he was unable to work, he needed an accessible and affordable apartment. Working hand-in-hand, NCEP and ASI secured Jason a spot at Bledsoe Lane Apartments in Las Vegas.

He says his new home took him "from dark of night to light of day. The set up is magnificent. They've got the roll-in shower plus accessible sinks in the bathroom and kitchen." Having access to supportive living services is one more component to an independent life.

Today, Jason enjoys training Boomer, his "very, very smart" service dog, at the community park across the street. He also volunteers by advocating for fellow veterans, and recently spoke at a Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting in favor of ASI's proposed new development for veterans in Las Vegas. The county unanimously approved the project.

Jason still struggles with short-term memory loss, but he's back in school at the College of Southern Nevada, planning to get his certificate as a paralegal.

Despite challenges, Jason's life motto reflects his positive attitude. "Just Keep Smiling, same as my initials. If you're having a bad day, JKS."



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The mission of Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) is to provide accessible, affordable, assisted/ supportive and independent living opportunities for persons with physical disabilities and brain injuries, as well as seniors. This mission is accomplished through the development and cost-effective management of accessible, affordable housing, as well as the provision of assisted/ supportive living and rehabilitation services.