



Accessible Space, Inc.

HOUSING WITH CARE®

ZACH JOHNSON

Driven to Win



How does a guy from the Iron Range end up in the big city working with the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Wild? Zach Johnson not only won his hoped-for jobs but also hob knobs with legislators at the state capital as he advocates for people with disabilities. He says his ASI apartment and access to 24/7/365 personal care assistance opened the door to achievement of his dreams.

"If I want to sleep in till noon when I don't have to work, I sleep in. If someone says, 'Do you want to go downtown for supper?' all I have to worry about is whether I have the taxi cab fare to get there. Because life doesn't begin or end when you PCA schedules it. ASI is there no matter what happens in your life."



A typical boyhood in the Minnesota Iron Range, says Zach Johnson, means fall football, spring baseball and winter hockey. For Zach, playing wasn't an option because of his Cerebral Palsy, but studying sports was. His grandpa meticulously taught him the strategies of each game,

diagramming plays and asking Zach to memorize them. From that early apprenticeship came Zach's love of sports and his ability to think critically from a player's perspective. Today he's the kind of guy who sees the goal in the distance and works to get there.

After high school, he moved from Grand Rapids to Minneapolis and eventually rented an apartment at ASI's Garfield Commons. With personal care assistance, accessibility features and affordability, his apartment gave him the freedom to earn a degree from the University of Minnesota in sports management. From there, he won jobs working in guest services for the Minnesota Twins (major league baseball) and Minnesota Wild (professional ice hockey) teams.

Zach also began working in advocacy and public speaking on behalf of the disability community. "It's the integration of the care and the services," he says. "That's what I try to get through to people. You can have as wide a hallway as you want. You can have the kitchen counter be as low as you need it. But if there's no one to get you out of bed, that doesn't mean a hill of beans."

He sees clearly how finding 24-hour services in an accessible, affordable apartment positioned him to live well and share his talents with the wider community.

"Every person, regardless of the severity of their disability, should be able to engage their community when and where they want to, not working around the schedule of their Personal Care Attendant. With ASI I feel like I can do anything, as long as I put in the effort."



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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.