

NEWS TO FRIENDS OF Accessible Space, Inc.



Spring 2015

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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/or brain injuries, as well as seniors.

"Housing with Care"®

ASI Administrative Offices are located at
2550 University Avenue West, Suite 330N, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114
(651) 645-7271 • FAX (651) 645-0541 • 1-800-466-7722
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CHINOOK WIND APARTMENTS OPENS

Chinook Wind Apartments in Greeley, Colorado was completed on January 28, 2015. Chinook Wind Apartments is an independent living housing community for seniors 55 and older including frail elderly with physical disabilities. Of the total 60 apartments, 12 resident units are fully wheelchair accessible.

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) would like to thank the Greeley/Weld County Housing Authority (GWA) for their commitment of 20 Project Based Housing Choice Vouchers and property tax exemption; the

City of Greeley Urban Renewal Authority (GURA) for their commitment of HOME Program funds; as well as the Colorado Housing and Finance Agency (CHFA). Chinook Wind Apartments is adjacent on the west side to the Poudre Valley Emergency Medical Center and the University of Colorado Health/Poudre Valley Health Systems Medical Complex. Adjacent on the east side is ASI's Twin Rivers Apartments, a 17 unit 100% accessible, affordable apartment building for very low-income adults with physical disabilities. Chinook Wind Apartments has a drive, sidewalk and walking path connecting to the City of Greeley Trail System. The building is near a major grocery store, pharmacy, restaurants, fitness center, dental clinic, post office and fire station.

Chinook Wind Apartments joins four other ASI apartment communities in Colorado: Casa Libertad in Longmont; Harmony Road Apartments in Ft. Collins; and its two Greeley buildings: Fox Run Apartments and Twin Rivers Apartments.

A dedication and open house is being planned for late summer 2015.

Anyone interested in receiving application information on Chinook Wind Apartments should contact Brooke Akins at Ross Management (303) 860-7885.



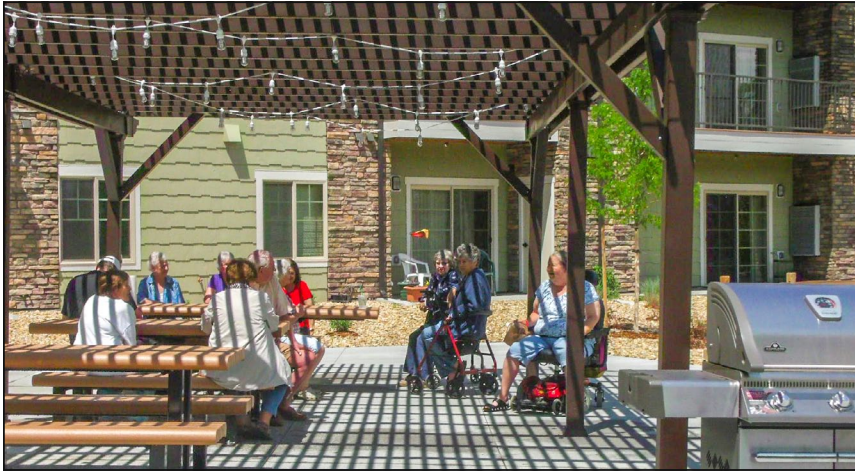
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ASI NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Since the Fall 2014 issue of **News to Friends of Accessible Space, Inc.**, an accessible, affordable apartment building in Greeley, Colorado has been completed. Three ASI developments are under construction in Montana and Nevada.



Residents enjoy the pergola at Chinook Wind Apartments

Chinook Wind Apartments in Greeley, Colorado was completed on January 28, 2015. Chinook Wind Apartments is an independent living senior community for adults 55 and older including frail

elderly with physical disabilities. Of the total 60 apartments, 12 resident units are fully wheelchair accessible.

Please see page one (1) for more information on Chinook Wind Apartments.

Three buildings are under construction in Colorado and Nevada.

Bonnie Lane Apartments in Las Vegas, Nevada began construction on April 23, 2014. Bonnie Lane

Apartments received Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) from the Nevada Housing Division. Bonnie Lane Apartments will be an independent living senior housing community for adults 55 and older including the frail elderly with physical disabilities. Of the total 66 apartments, 14 resident units have been designed to be fully wheelchair accessible.

ASI would like to thank Clark County Community Resources Management for their commitment of HOME Program funds; the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco's Affordable Housing Program with assistance from Mississippi Valley Life Insurance/U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo; and the Nevada Division of Housing. A special thank you is also extended to our LIHTC consultants, Eric Novak and Dr. Hilary Lopez of Praxis Consulting Group, LLC.

Bonnie Lane Apartments in Las Vegas, Nevada is under construction and scheduled for completion in late June 2015.



Apply for housing online at: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/housing/index.php>

Bonnie Lane Apartments will be located on the west side of Bonnie Lane and across the street from the Bob Price Community Center and the Cora Coleman Senior Center. The site is on East Lake Mead Boulevard with access to transportation on this major street. In addition, Bonnie Lane Apartments will be near social services, shopping, pharmacies, restaurants, banks, churches and a library. Bonnie Lane Apartments will also include a solar system that will provide approximately 36% of the total energy demand for all common areas of the building.

Bonnie Lane Apartments joins 16 other accessible, affordable ASI buildings in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area in addition to The Loux Center which is home to ASI's Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP). Bonnie Lane Apartments is scheduled for completion in late June 2015.

Casa Oliva in Las Vegas, Nevada is a nine unit, accessible, affordable residential home designed for adults with acquired and traumatic brain injuries. Construction began on October 6, 2014 with completion scheduled for September 2015. Casa Oliva is located across the street from ASI's recently completed Mojave Cedar Apartments. Assistance with



Voyageur Apartments is scheduled to be completed in April 2016.

personal services will be provided on a 24/7/365 basis to the residents of Casa Oliva.

Voyageur Apartments began construction on April 6, 2015. Voyageur Apartments joins three other ASI buildings in **Great Falls, Montana**: The Portage, Southwinds Estates and Meadowlark Apartments.

Voyageur Apartments received LIHTC funds from the Montana Division of Housing. Voyageur Apartments will be an independent living senior housing community for adults 55 and older. Of the total 38 apartments, eight (8) resident units have been designed to be fully wheelchair accessible.

Casa Oliva in Las Vegas, Nevada is scheduled for completion September 2015.



Apply for housing online at: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/housing/index.php>

ASI would like to thank the City of Great Falls, Montana for their commitment of HOME Program funds; the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago's Affordable Housing Program with assistance from Bremer Bank and Banker's Bank; and the Montana Division of Housing. A special thank you is also extended to our LIHTC consultants, Eileen Piekarz of Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC); and Eric Novak and Dr. Hilary Lopez of Praxis Consulting Group, LLC.

Voyageur Apartments will be located on the west side of Division Road, north of 16th Avenue NW in Great Falls, Montana. The site is located less than 60 yards north of Great Falls Medical Clinic Northwest, and is adjacent to ASI's Meadowlark Apartments on the west.

ASI currently has a total of 11 accessible, affordable ASI buildings in Montana. Voyageur Apartments is scheduled for completion in April 2016.

Anyone interested in receiving information on ASI's newest developments should contact ASI's Property Management Department at (800) 466-7722. Your call will be directed to the appropriate Property Manager.

In 2012 Ovation Development Corporation of Las Vegas, Nevada requested ASI serve as the nonprofit partner for four of its developments.

Tempo Senior Apartments (Russell Senior Apartments Phase I) is located at the intersection of Russell Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard in Las Vegas opened on April 14, 2014. Tempo Senior Apartments has 101 one- and two-bedroom units.

Ensemble Apartments (Agate Avenue Apartments Phase I) is located at the intersection of West Agate Avenue near South Las Vegas Blvd. in Las Vegas began construction on February 18, 2014. This first phase has 182 one- and two-bedroom units. Ensemble Apartments completed first floor construction on May 1, 2015. The remainder of construction was completed in June 2015.

Tempo Duet Senior Apartments (Russell Senior Apartments Phase II) began construction on April 6, 2015. This second phase will have 75 one- and two-bedroom units of affordable housing for seniors age 55 and better. Construction completion is anticipated to be in April 2016.

Ensemble Duet Apartments (Agate Avenue Apartments Phase II) will have 195 one- and two-bedroom units of affordable housing for seniors age 55 and better. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2015 with completion in August 2016.

If you are interested in receiving information on these Ovation developments please contact Ovation Development Property Management at (702) 904-1756 (Ensemble and Ensemble Duet Apartments) or (702) 990-2771 (Tempo and Tempo Duet Senior Apartments).

Community lounge at Ensemble Apartments



Apply for housing online at: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/housing/index.php>



Above: aerial view of Ensemble Apartments in Las Vegas, Nevada

Apply for housing online at: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/housing/index.php>

TEMPO SENIOR APARTMENTS OPEN HOUSE AND DEDICATION

On November 6, 2014 an Open House and Dedication Ceremony was held for Tempo Senior Apartments in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tempo Senior Apartments is located at 5625 South Hollywood Avenue (at East Russell Road), in Las Vegas, Nevada 89122.

A collaboration between Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) and Ovation Development Corporation (Ovation), Tempo Senior Apartments is a planned 176 unit, accessible, affordable senior housing campus being developed in two phases over a four year period on adjoining parcels. Phase I consists of 101 units and Phase II will have 75 units.

On September 11, 2012 ASI and Ovation were awarded 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) by the Nevada Housing Division (NHD). Construction began on June 3, 2013, and the building opened on April 14, 2014.

The Open House and Dedication Ceremony began with a welcome by Alan Molasky, President of Ovation. Guest speakers at the event were Stephen Vander Schaaf, ASI's President/CEO; Mary Beth Scow, Clark County Commissioner, District G; Sharath Chandra, Deputy Administrator, NHD; George W. Smith, Las Vegas, Nevada Market President, Bank of America; Philip Gorgone, Vice President, Hudson Housing Capital; and Karen Sanchez, Resident Services Coordinator, Ovation Property Management. Ms. Sanchez introduced Tempo Senior Apartments' residents: Lou Alice McDonald, Thomas Romano and Janice Thornton.

The following organizations were acknowledged for their funding and/or support of Tempo Senior Apartments: the NHD LIHTC Program; Bank of America Merrill Lynch Community Development Banking; Hudson Housing Capital; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); the Clark County Board of Commissioners; Clark County Community Resources Management; and the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco. The event closed with tours of the building and refreshments.



Speakers and guests at Tempo Senior Apartments Open House and Dedication



Alan Molasky, Ovation's Chief Executive Officer, unveils dedication plaque with Clark County Commissioner Mary Beth Scow.



Stephen Vander Schaaf, ASI's President/CEO

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ASI BUILDINGS

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) staff has been busy with several rehabilitation and energy upgrade projects over the past six months.



Leah's Apartments and West Apartments in Burnsville, Minnesota

*Above, new air conditioners
Below, new patio*



Leah's Apartments and West Apartments in Burnsville, Minnesota received several funding awards for substantial renovations. These two apartment buildings have 41 accessible, affordable units. Funds for this vital work will be provided by the Dakota County Community Development Agency HOPE Program; the Carl and Eloise Pohlads Family Foundation; The Saint Paul Foundation; the F. R. Bigelow Foundation; and the Otto Bremer Foundation.

In addition to replacement of the windows at West Apartments, both buildings required renovations that included replacement of roofs, entry doors, exterior concrete work and exterior painting. As of May 31, 2015 most capital improvements have been completed.

Van Buren House in Blaine, Minnesota is a four unit, accessible, affordable residence for very low-income adults with traumatic brain injuries. Funds to replace the roof, concrete driveway and sidewalks were provided by the Anoka County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This work should be completed by Fall 2015.

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o in Waipahu, Hawaii is a 24 unit accessible, affordable apartment building for very low-income adults with physical disabilities which opened in 2000. Hale Kuha'o was awarded funds from the City and County of Honolulu for plumbing renovations and repair to the bathrooms. Renovations began in May 2014 and should be completed by September 2015. The plumbing renovations were completed in stages of two to five units so as not to displace too many

residents at a time. Hale Kuha'o recently received a substantial grant award from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to conclude the current improvements and implement the second phase which consists of the installation of a replacement emergency call system/alert alarm for resident safety; installation of automatic door openers; replacement of resident air conditioning units; and painting/ decorating in the common areas.

Work will continue in the near future on **Pesch Place in Golden Valley, Minnesota**. Additional rehabilitation funds were recently provided through the City of Golden Valley/Hennepin County CDBG Consolidated Pool. Pesch Place is a residential home with five units of accessible, affordable housing for very low-income adults with physical disabilities. The building is within an easy roll/walk of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute (formerly Courage Center). Originally constructed by Courage Center in 1980, Pesch Place was acquired by ASI in 1993. Work to be completed includes bathroom renovations, replacement of floor coverings in common areas, replacement of a retaining wall (one was replaced previously) and replacement of accessible path to lower level.



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o in Waipahu, Hawaii

*Above, new commons room
Below, new bathrooms*



SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF ASI

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) continues to experience success in its fundraising activities across the United States. Many buildings under development, as well as buildings open for several years, benefited from funding awards in the last six months.

In March 2015 the **Clark County, Nevada HOME/LIHTC Program** awarded funds to ASI Veterans Supportive Housing Development. The **Clark County, Nevada HOME/LIHTC Program** also awarded funds for capital improvements at Casa Norte in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Also in March 2015 the **Microsoft Corporation** gave an in-kind donation of computer software.

In April 2015 **The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** awarded funds for plumbing repairs and capital improvements at The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o in Waipahu, Hawaii.

In May 2015 the **Clark County, Nevada Board of Commissioners** awarded Outside Agency Grant (OAG) funds for service start-up at Casa Oliva in Las Vegas, Nevada. Also in May 2015 the **City of Golden Valley, Minnesota and Hennepin County Consolidated Pool** awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rehabilitation work at Pesch Place. The **Greater Twin Cities United Way** extended their multi-year award to ASI until June 2016 in their Supporting Health and Independence program area.

In June 2015 The Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP) received substantial funding from the **Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)** for indigent and/or very low-income persons with traumatic brain injuries.

ASI would also like to thank **Olsen Thielen CPAs** for their sponsorship of ASI's 2015 **A Taste for Space Fun(d) Raising Event**.

On behalf of the Board, residents and staff of ASI, we offer our sincere thanks to all the individuals and organizations providing support during the past several months. The support provided by these individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies is critical in ASI's continued development of accessible, affordable housing and supportive care services across the United States.

For a complete listing of our 2014 generous donors, please visit Funding Focus at www.accessiblespace.org/giving.

E-NEWSLETTERS

If you're interested in receiving the ASI's e-newsletter, please visit our website, www.accessiblespace.org and click the "join our e-mail list" option at the top of the screen.

NEVADA COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (NCEP)

AWARDED CONTRACT FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) is pleased to announce that the Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP), a highly recognized, CARF accredited neuro-rehabilitation program in Las Vegas, Nevada, has been selected as one of 20 contracted providers with the Veterans Health Administration Assisted Living Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI). This is the second time the VA has contracted with civilian providers who offer post-acute brain injury rehabilitation services, and NCEP is honored once again to be chosen as a provider. The program will provide services to enhance Veteran's quality of life through rehabilitation and community re-entry which aligns closely with the mission of NCEP: to help individuals with brain injuries make continued progress toward greater independence while maximizing their functional potential.

Jodi Sabal, Director of Nevada Community Enrichment Program, states "We at NCEP are honored to be chosen to provide the highest quality care to Veterans and their families. These deserving individuals will receive highly skilled, individualized and compassionate rehabilitation services."

NCEP, a CARF accredited neuro-rehabilitation program of ASI based in Las Vegas, Nevada, offers intensive and comprehensive day and residential treatment to individuals who have sustained a brain injury or other neurological impairment. Through evidence based treatment practices, support, training and community resources, NCEP helps individuals develop and achieve greater self-reliance and independence.



WAS...UP? CLUB WILL BE 15 YEARS OLD IN JULY!

The WAS...Up? Club (Worthwhile Activity Supports Unlimited Potential) will be 15 years old in July 2015. The Club meets weekly at ASI's Van Buren site in Blaine, Minnesota.

Participants have been involved in a wide variety of activities including the discussion of current events, arts and crafts, cooking, scrap booking, developing independent living skills (money management, community safety, time management, communication skills, etc.), active and passive games, not to mention enjoying a good party when the opportunity arises!

Special events have included: picnics to nearby parks; day trips to Duluth and northeastern Minnesota; Valentine parties, prom (with formals and tuxedos); glamorous photos; St. Patrick's Day; Oktoberfest; Olympics events; and holiday celebrations.

The Was...Up? Club will be hosting a luncheon/birthday reception at the Van Buren site on July 22, 2015.

SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual Mission Support Luncheon

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Town and Country Club
300 Mississippi River Blvd. N.,
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ASI

Employer Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees.

If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. Accessible Space, Inc. will do the rest. The impact of your gift to our mission may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses, as well.

Honor a Loved One or Special Friend

Pay tribute or honor a special person's birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, with a Memorial or Honorarium gift to Accessible Space, Inc. Your name, as the donor, and the person being honored, will be acknowledged in the newsletter.

Sponsor or Attend an Accessible Space Event

Host a special event that is organized and hosted by you or your group to support Accessible Space, Inc.'s mission of providing accessible, affordable "housing with care" to adults with disabilities, as well as seniors. You and your friends are generously offering your time and resources to hold an event while Accessible Space's fund development staff provides guidance and assistance. Fun events for you to host might be: Garage/Bake/Craft Sale, Car Wash, Dinner & a Movie Night, Walk/Run/Roll Event, Wine & Cheese Party, Golf Tournament, Concert, etc.

Serve on the ASI Fund Development Committee

To learn how you can help, contact Jacque Rooney, ASI's Fund Development Associate, 1-800-466-7722 or 651-645-7271, ext. 252; email at jrooney@accessiblespace.org

WE RAISED SOME FUN AT A TASTE FOR SPACE

Conversation, a perfect spring day, a food truck, a little beer and support for ASI's "housing with care" mission. We had it all at our 4th annual "A Taste for Space" at Boom Island Brewing Company (Boom Island) on June 10, 2015. Boom Island is located at 2014 Washington Avenue North in Minneapolis.

A big thank you to Boom Island Brewing Company for opening their doors and promoting our event. Boom Island crafts Belgian beer and offered several varieties of beer by the glass or in flights for sampling.

Potter's Pasties' food truck was also on the scene to provide Cornish Pasties for our hungry guests. The 4th Annual A Taste for Space was sponsored by Olsen Thielen, CPAs. A raffle for prizes added to the fun.

Thank you, too, to our raffle donors, Matt Clysdale, Maguire Agency; Bob Baker, Hinrichs & Associates; US Bank; Scott & Shelly Barsuhn; Canterbury Park; Guthrie Theater; Water Street Inn; the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Stephen Vander Schaaf, JoAnn Hansen and Jacque Rooney and to our committee members and volunteers.

ASI's Fund Development Committee hosted this great event to raise awareness of our mission to provide accessible, affordable, "housing with care" for people with disabilities and for seniors. Please join us as we plan for next year's **A Taste for Space**.

Contact Jacque Rooney, Fund Development for ASI at 1-800-466-7722 or 651-645-7271, ext. 252; or via email at jrooney@accessiblespace.org to learn how you can help.



Apply for housing online at: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/housing/index.php>



MARP AND ASI HOST 9TH ANNUAL BINGO NIGHT

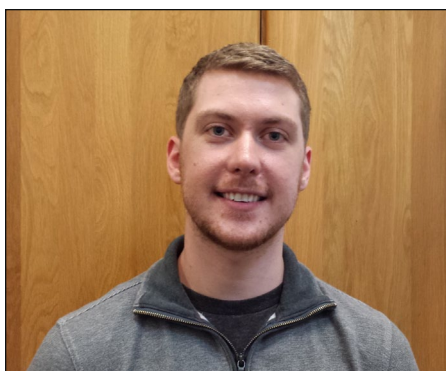
On May 2, 2015 the residents of the New Beginnings for Brain Injury (NBBI) and Shared Living Programs participated in the 9th Annual Bingo Night. The Minnesota Association of Rehabilitation Providers (MARP) and ASI hosted the event for approximately 30 residents. There were 20 volunteers from MARP plus 12 ASI staff. MARP provided pizza and beverages, as well as many prizes that are given.

MARP is an organization of case managers and counselors working with adults with injuries and disabilities. The event was held at Neill High Rise in Saint Paul, Minnesota where ASI currently provides its "housing with care" services to 11 residents. ASI appreciates MARP's interest in our residents and staff. Plans are already in the works for next year's event.

IN MEMORIAM

ASI is saddened by the passing of 27 residents over the past eight months. We will miss our friends and the spirit they brought to ASI.

Paul Barker	2/16/1945-5/8/2015
William J. Raggio Plaza, Reno, Nevada	
Jonathan Black	2/10/1977-5/10/2015
McCullough Place, Memphis, Tennessee	
Janet Bjorge	7/19/1941-2/20/2015
Becker Avenue Apartments, Willmar, Minnesota	
Esequiel Ceja	7/29/1925-3/12/2015
Henry Harbour, Corpus Christi, Texas	
Tara Cooper	7/17/1961-11/20/2014
George & Lois Brown Estates, Henderson, Nevada	
David Dreon	4/14/1944-5/12/15
Thorndale Apartments, New Brighton, Minnesota	
Beverly Elsen	10/22/1948-2/25/2015
River Winds Apartments, Marshall, Minnesota	
Christian Elsner	9/20/1956-3/25/2015
Windvale Pines, The Woodlands, Texas	
Katherine Erickson	11/27/1959-4/12/2015
Henry Courts II, Saint Paul, Minnesota	
Thoms Fox	3/10/1952-12/7/1954
Moses Residence, Grand Rapids, Minnesota	
John France	8/7/1931-1/31/2015
Camden House, Minneapolis, Minnesota	
Joseph Guerena	6/13/1927-4/27/2015
The Dakota, Capitola, California	
Robert Johnson	10/26/1948-5/18/2015
Roselawn Village Apartments, Roseville, Minnesota	
Ruth Just	10/12/1944-10/28/2014
West Apartments, Burnsville, Minnesota	
Ronna Kizala	8/7/1963-4/13/2015
Mid America Commons, Kansas City, Kansas	
Brian Lauer	5/29/1971-5/8/2015
Iglehart House, Saint Paul, Minnesota	
Dawn Mitchell	8/29/1966-3/31/2015
Northland Apartments, Fargo, North Dakota	
Thomas Muer	11/22/1963-3/14/2015
River Bluff Apartments, Shakopee, Minnesota	
Greg Nutt	8/13/1947-1/2/2015
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o, Waipahu, Hawaii	
Michelle Ott	9/17/1951-4/17/2015
Autumn Trails of Rogers, Rogers, Minnesota	
Patty Palmer	1/23/1925-4/11/2015
Oak Forest Heights, San Antonio, Texas	
Jacki Roonzani	10/21/1960-11/28/2014
Winston Courts, Hibbing, Minnesota	
Michael Russell	1/1/1957-10/25/2014
Anderson Fischer Apartments, Mobile, Alabama	
Ramona Scott	8/14/1955-1/15/2015
Bledsoe Lane Apartments	
Dorothy Smith	8/10/1943-12/19/2014
Windvale Pines, The Woodlands, Texas	
Wayne Thornton	3/9/1944-4/6/2015
Queen City Estates, Helena, Montana	
Philbert Woosley	11/15/1954-3/27/2015
John Chambers Apartments, Las Vegas, Nevada	



MICHAEL STORHAUG, RN

Michael Storhaug, RN, has worked at Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) since August 2010 when he began working as a Resident Assistant (RA) at Garfield Commons in Bloomington, Minnesota. While he worked as an RA he was also attending college at Normandale Community College taking classes to become a Registered Nurse. Michael received his RN pin in 2013.

In November 2014 Michael was hired as an Assisted Living Nurse serving four ASI Program Services sites in Bloomington, Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

From Michael's LinkedIn Page: In addition to my nursing skills, I have developed my leadership skills as well. As Head Nursing Assistant at my long-term assisted living job, I have organized shifts, solved conflicts among employees and residents, and organized successful events for our residents. I have also been involved in community education as a volunteer patient educator at the Family Tree Clinic.

KEN CRESTONI AND NANCY

RESIDENTS OF SOUTHWINDS ESTATES

by Patty Stroh

Nineteen years ago Ken Crestoni came to live at Southwinds Estates in Great Falls, Montana when the building first opened in the Spring of 1996.

At the age of 16 Ken had a collision with a parked Amtrak train in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The accident happened in the middle of the night. It was dark and Ken did not see the train. As a result Ken spent five months in a coma. He had a traumatic brain injury and was partially paralyzed.

In September 2014 Ken had surgery on his shoulder. Ken said he received great help from the resident assistants (RAs) at Southwinds Estates. Without their help he would have needed to go to Rehab at a nursing home. It was wonderful he was able to come home to recuperate.

Ken enjoys his independence. He likes that Southwinds is a secure building. He can have three meals a day prepared for him and share those with his daughter. He receives help getting up in the morning and going to bed. He especially enjoys having help with his coffee throughout the day!

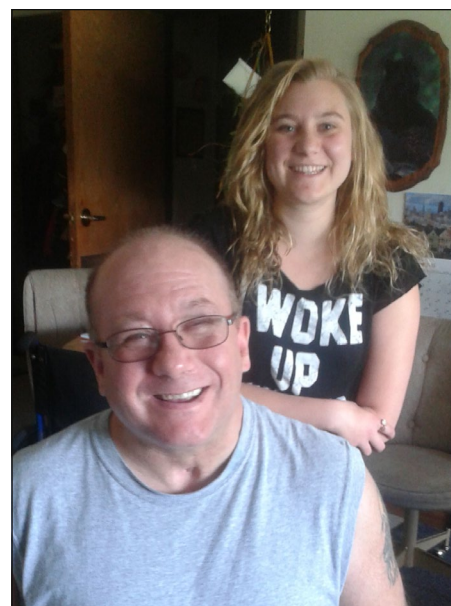
Ken works at Goodwill two days a week. He enjoys getting good deals! He will also be getting a new bike soon. One of Ken's favorite things to do is ride his bike around town.

Ken's daughter, Nancy, is a busy 15 year old. Nancy came to live with Ken when she was 8 years old. Nancy is a typical teenager. She just finished her first year of high school and is currently taking Driver's Ed. Nancy is also in training to be a lifeguard. She will be teaching swimming lessons this summer. The kids just love her!

Nancy also enjoys hanging out with her friends, having sleepovers and of course, shopping! Nancy will be taking advanced theater and business classes next year. She will be a sophomore. Nancy has really grown up with some of the staff and residents of Southwinds Estates. Everyone enjoys having a teenager in the building! Nancy enjoys visiting with the staff. Nancy also likes the wide open area around the building. It's great for water balloon fights and snowball fights.

Ken and Nancy have a big black cat named Bear. Bear is a very comical cat. He talks a lot and likes to be the center of attention. He really, really, really likes his treats!

*This story was submitted by Patty Stroh, Site Supervisor, Southwinds Estates in Great Falls, Montana. Patty has worked at Southwinds since 1996.



When high school friends faced a crisis together, they first imagined and then brought to life a whole new living concept for people with mobility impairments.

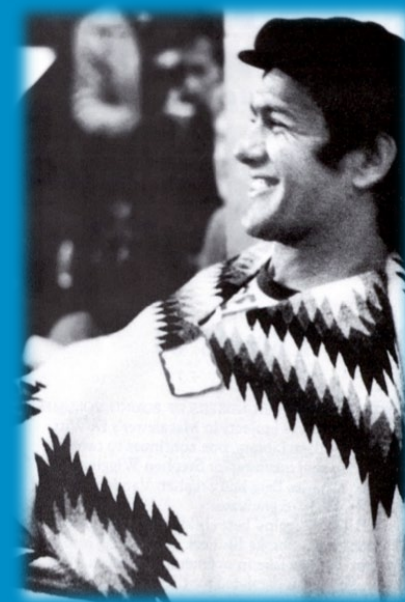
Forty years ago in the summer of 1975, Mike "Hondo" Pesch, a young man from Austin, Minnesota, dove into a lake made shallow by drought and broke his neck. In an instant, he was paralyzed for life. It began a harsh new reality for Mike. After his hospital recovery, he entered rehabilitation at Courage Center where he faced grueling and frustrating physical therapy. His longtime friend, Steve Wiggins, came to visit. Seeing his friend struggling made Steve decide to become a personal care attendant at Courage Center.

Beyond the emotional and physical challenges, there was the question of long-term accessible housing. The options available to Mike - move home with his parents or go to a nursing home - seemed restrictive choices for a young man. What about privacy? What about independence?

Steve Wiggins, then a sophomore at Macalester College in St. Paul, and friend Charles Berg developed a groundbreaking concept in a college thesis paper. They imagined a new living model for people with physical disabilities - accessible dwellings where adults could live cooperatively. Why not build accessible, affordable houses where people shared personal care attendants but kept their privacy?

They used masking tape to plot out rooms on a gym floor, altering blueprints on the spot when hallways were too cramped for wheelchairs to maneuver. They welcomed the energy, imagination and wisdom of Courage Center residents. All that was left was getting the funds to build barrier-free houses.

In 1978, Accessible Space, Inc. was incorporated as a Minnesota nonprofit organization and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved its Section 202 application for \$1.1 million to construct five homes. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in January 1980, and the following fall residents moved in. The rest is over 35 years of history.



GIVING A GIFT IS EASY.

Please donate online at www.accessiblespace.org

or mail to:

Accessible Space, Inc.
Fund Development
2550 University Avenue West,
Suite 330N
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Telephone # _____

Enclosed is my check payable to Accessible Space, Inc. (Please do not enclose cash.) **Thank You.**
Your donation to Accessible Space, Inc. is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
Tax ID # 41-1330242

Together we can change lives, open doors and provide "housing with care."

Apply for housing online at: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/housing/index.php>

Accessible Space, Inc.

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