

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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NOVEMBER 2011

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Larry Turilli)



Last month I told you that Cornbelt AMBUCS™ was going to participate in the Access Allies for Bloomington-Normal Parenting and Disabilities Expo. The Expo introduces individuals with disabilities to organization like ours that specialize in providing accessibility services. Our club has been part of this Expo in previous years, but I had never been there to represent us. I'm really glad I was there this year. I got a much deeper appreciation for the needs of individuals with disabilities. Don Stogsdill and I talked to

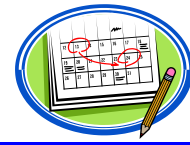
lots of people looking for ways to improve their mobility. A few stopped by to thank us for ramps that we'd built for them, a friend or relative. We also had several folks thank us for an AmTryke® donation. Most of us have seen the smiles on the face of a new ramp owner, and who can forget the smile on the face of a child taking her first AmTryke® ride, but we don't always remember those ramps and AmTrykes® make a difference that lasts long beyond our initial donation. It was very gratifying to hear how the things we do have positively impacted lives in the community.

I walked around the Expo on my own for a while and talked to some of the other service providers. The story I shared above was the same for everyone I talked to. The needs of individuals with disabilities go far beyond the ramps and AmTrykes® that we provide. I guess deep down I already knew that, but I really was surprised by the broad range of services that were needed and available. For example, I knew there were counseling and financial aid organizations there to help, but I had never given any thought to the special legal needs a family with a disabled individual might have. There were almost 40 booths at the Expo and no two offered the same services. Even navigating through the sea of service providers to get to the right one appears to be a daunting task. Thankfully there's an organization out there that helps with that.

I found myself wanting to know more about these other organizations than I could find out in brief conversation, so I started asking them to come and speak to our club at a future lunch meeting. Everyone I asked was not only willing, but excited to do that. Like us, they are in the business of helping. Education and awareness are important parts of every service organization's business. That business ends with the delivery of some unique service, but it starts with an awareness that the service is available. These luncheon presentations will help other organizations spread the word about what they do, and allow us to share our message as well: a win-win proposition for both groups.

The AMBUCS™ mission is to create mobility for individuals with disabilities. Cornbelt AMBUCS™ chooses to do our part through ramps, AmTrykes® and scholarships. Pay attention to the lunch meeting invitation I send out each month, and look to see who will be speaking. Come hear the unique story of other organizations and find out how they help in our community. Our next lunch meeting is Wednesday, December 7, at Monical's Pizza near Best Buy. Come join us, learn something, and have a little fun along with your pizza.

Larry Turilli



Mark your calendars!!!

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, November 19, 2011
 Time: 7:15 a.m.
 Place: Shannon's Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, December 7, 2011
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

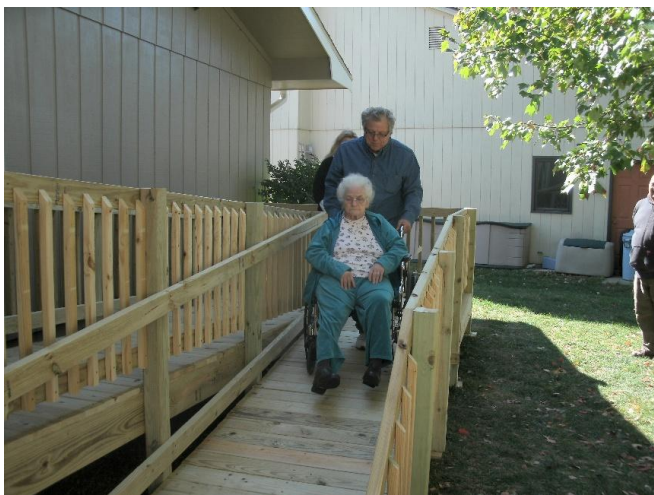


Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, All you ramp builders -

We got extra credit points in October for three ramps! The weather was great and we had volunteers that were willing... so we built three ramps. First was the Marshall's in Bloomington. Their mother is living with them and they needed a way to get her in and out of their home safely... and the AMBUCS™ came to the rescue. Our Diversity scholars helped along side of our AMBUCS™ volunteers to build a 30 foot for Ms. Marshall. She had a big smile on her face as her family wheeled her down the ramp for the first time... Great job!



The second ramp we built was for Ms. Laesch... in Bloomington... in her garage... so she could use her new scooter to get in and out of her home safely. Thanks to Dan Bedell for his extra efforts and spending an evening with me in building a 15 foot ramp with a couple of platforms for Ms. Laesch. She was very pleased and thanked us for helping her, as well.

The third ramp was for Mrs. Hilt in Bloomington. She was diagnosed with MS several years ago and was reluctant about having a ramp at her home until this year. We showed up... took that pile of lumber... and built TWO ramps for her... a 20 foot ramp in the front of her home and another smaller ramp in the garage. We had plenty of volunteers, beautiful weather... and enjoyed Mrs. Hilt's maiden voyage down her new ramp that day.



We provided quite a few smiles during the month of October... and we've still got a few more to build. Save the third Saturday in November for another ramp building day! We will try to build one ramp and possibly a second ramp, depending on the weather in November.. so watch your e-mails. Thanks, again, for all who came and helped us this season. I hope you had that same sense of satisfaction that I have when we pull away from home... looking back to see a fine looking ramp... and remembering the smiles that we left behind, as well. There's still time left for a few more ramps... so feel free to call me if you need any extra encouragement.

Thanks, again, and I'll see ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie

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Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

We now post all our monthly newsletters on our website at www.cornbeltambucs.org. When the newsletter is posted I send a link to everyone's email address so they can click on the link to take them directly to the newsletter. So to get your link sent to you, please email Jerry your email address at JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com.



Notes from Al...



AmTrykes®

In October (National AmTryke® Month) Cornbelt AMBUCS™ gave a wonderful special girl her new bike. Cassie started out on an AM12 several years ago and has outgrown the AM12 and was ready for a much bigger bike as you can tell from the pictures. The family, therapist and Cornbelt were not sure if she needed the Pro Series bike or one of the adult cycles. Cassie and her family were willing to wait until Joe Copeland, AMBUCS™ Executive Director, was putting on a therapist training session in Peoria so Cassie could try the different bike and options. Cassie tried out several of the bikes and is shown below trying out the recumbent 21 speed bike with her mother and therapist. However, after several tries it was determined the 20 inch adult bike with the tractor seat would be the best cycle for today and in the future.



The bike was ordered and Cassie and her father arrived at a ramp project and picked up her new 2700 series bike. As you can tell from the pictures she loved her bike from day one. About a week after she received the bike we received the following quote from Cassie's father, "**Cassie absolutely loves the trike! We took it home and she rode it over a mile Saturday afternoon! The best part is some of her friends joined her and she felt just like "one of the kids"; PRICELESS!!!**" This is what it is all about, right?



Thanks to all for helping us find the right bike for this lovely special girl. We are currently working with the family on a potential wheelchair ramp so she can get out of the house and ride her bike on her own. Maybe some additional members will be there when we build the ramp and get the opportunity to meet this wonderful exciting girl.

As usual, please continue to send me the contact information for anyone who might benefit from a therapeutic bike.

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