



Children's  
Ability Fund



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→ Children's Ability Fund ←

2014 to 15

annual report

[www.childrensabilityfund.ca](http://www.childrensabilityfund.ca)

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## executive director ←

### 25 years . . . that's a quarter of a century, a silver jubilee!

As I celebrate my Silver Jubilee anniversary with the **Children's Ability Fund**, I am blessed with so many cherished memories - the people I've met, the money we've worked so hard to raise and our clients who have been impacted by how we are able to use that money to assist with their independence.

*A silver jubilee is a time to look back and thank every person that has contributed.* – Father Joseph Carter

Over the years, I have met many people who have made a huge difference to this charity. Our Board of Directors; from our beginnings under the umbrella of the ACT Edmonton Club to being an independent mix of community minded individuals - still including familiar faces from way back. Staff; some who have come and gone - but mostly stayed. Donors; some who have been donating for as long as I have been here. Clients like Richard, who will be honored as the CAF 2015 Volunteer of the Year and Mary, CJ's Mom (a client who we helped way back in 1994) who is now an active Board member. I have met many clients and families over the years, some for a brief time and others who keep in touch on a regular basis. All of them have made an impact and touched my heart in many different ways.

*A silver jubilee is a time to pause and reflect on all of the good work done.* – Denis J. Hart

Over the years, we have been fortunate to raise both awareness and money, each being equally important to our cause. Awareness about people with disabilities and the challenges they face every day. Donations have come our way thanks to the generosity of our loyal donors, service clubs, groups, organizations and foundations. Others have remembered us in their wills or have donated in the memory of a loved one. All have placed their trust in us to do good things.

We have hosted, run and facilitated a number of special events. Some continued for several years; like the Runners' Choice Relay, Wing Ding, Tee Fore Two and Bowl for



Children while others were short lived. In addition we have had several Shining Star partners who have raised money on our behalf.

Over the years, we have provided a myriad of all kinds of equipment for individuals with the goal to enhance their ability, to be more independent and live an independent lifestyle. We have provided dozens of bursary awards to students heading back to school.

We have funded large projects like Easy Street at the Glenrose, a Snoezelen Room at Rosecrest, housing at Abbey Road and many capital projects at Camp He Ho Ha. We have also provided grants to numerous organizations through one of the many programs we have offered including; A New Leash on Life, Camping Under the Stars, Keyboards for Kids, Lone Star Program and Sledges in School AND we have had a hand in 176 new play spaces created with an accessible component.

*A silver jubilee can illustrate how much more needs to be done.* – Anon.

As we continue, we are committed to providing equipment to those in need. Mobility is, and continues to be, a top priority with almost 80% of requests related to the ability to be more active at home, at school, at work, or at play. Thank you for your past support, in whatever capacity, and your continued support as we look to the future.

Yours in community service,

**CAROL RUSS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# client care ←

## our vision ...

equal participation in our society of  
all persons with disabilities

## our mission ...

to provide funding (for equipment)  
to enhance the independence of  
people with disabilities – throughout  
northern Alberta

## our focus ...

is on children however we will  
consider applications for funding  
requests from adults when funds  
permit

2014-15

## board of directors

Linnie Tse, MEdes, *Chair*

Brian Alguire, CMA, *Treasurer*

Wayne Evenson

Neera Garga

Ken Gulevich

Boyd Leader

Mary Sutherland

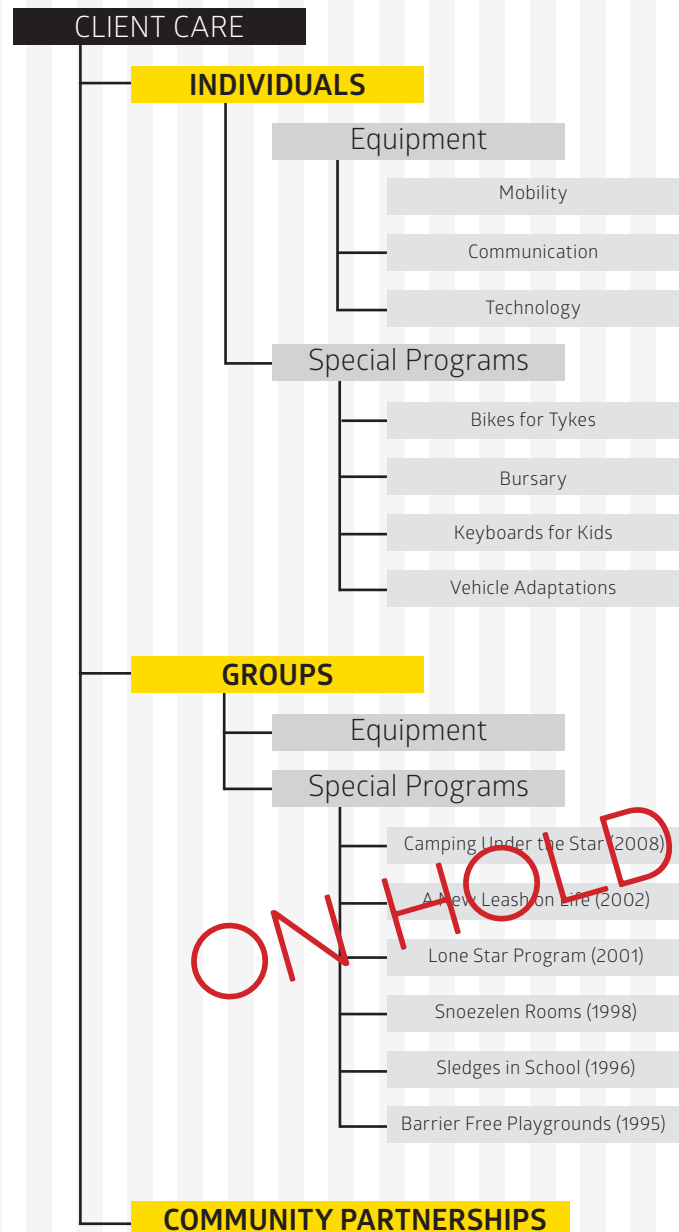
Robroy (Bob) McGregor, *Past Chair*

David Dorward CMA,CA, *Honorary*

## staff

**Carol Russ**, CMA, BMgt  
*Executive Director*

**Marilyn Melnychuk**  
*Client Care Coordinator*



# client care ←

More than 90% of the equipment we provided this year was to individuals for equipment related to mobility and the ability to be more active in the community . . . at home, at school, at work, and at play.

Specialized equipment includes such items as:

**Mobility Devices** – Wheelchairs, walkers, overhead lifts, porch lifts, vehicle lifts, ramps, lift chairs, hospital beds, tilt systems, standing frames, car seats, leg braces

**Communication Devices** – TTY's, environmental controls, signaling devices, voice synthesizers, FM systems

## Other

Equipment	Edmonton		Northern Alberta		Total	
Mobility Aids / Devices	20	\$ 66,213	12	\$ 35,553	32	\$ 100,766
Communication / Signaling Devices	5	8,016	2	1,651	8	9,667
Other	4	1,255	2	987	6	2,242
<b>Special Programs</b>						
Vehicle Adaptations	6	30,000	2	10,000	8	40,000
Bikes for Tykes	3	4,500	0	0	3	4,500
<b>Bursary</b>			2	5,000	2	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	38	\$109,984	20	\$ 47,191	61	\$ 162,175



Thank you for all that the **Children's Ability Fund** team has done for us. The stair lift addition to our house has been an absolute life saver and has made things so much easier for Ade and me. She truly appreciates being able to have easy access to both floors of our home and is now able to get between her room, upstairs, and the living room area downstairs without the fear of us falling as I carry her between the two floors. It also means that as Ade is getting bigger, taller and tougher to carry, I am able to save my back and my daughter from undue injury. None of this would have been possible without the generous funding the **Children's Ability Fund** has provided to our family. Thank you for your assistance for which we are truly grateful.

Ade's Mom



## client care ←

A stroller, a power wheelchair, a standing frame, a Zassy Easy S chair (with an outdoor frame and an indoor frame) and an accessible bike. Add this to a host of accessible features at home . . . Tyler has lots of different kinds of equipment all with a specific purpose.

His stroller allows Mom to easily take Tyler for short outings; his standing frame is useful at home to give Tyler some exercise and respite from being in a chair all day long. The outdoor frame for the Zassy chair provides the means for safe transport on the bus to and from school and the indoor frame can be used for some activities. The fully accessible and specialized bike is just for fun.

The newest addition to the slew of equipment is a power wheelchair and with that Tyler's first taste of freedom. His new wheelchair (that Tyler will use at school) has a lift. Mom says that will be really useful for being able to get things down on his own. He can reach his backpack from the hanger at school. "Excuse me ladies" . . . as he wizzes by demonstrating the power and agility of his new chair (and the speed). "Slow down" Mom says as he races down the driveway – "only to the end of the pavement" she chides. "I am determined that my son will be independent and this chair such a great start."

We have known Tyler (his twin brother Colton and older brother Grayson) and his family for a long time. Tyler was born with CP. We have been very pleased to be a part of a larger group of organizations providing the equipment for Tyler and his quest for independence. The **Children's Ability Fund** initially supplied a standing frame, then a modified bike and now a new addition – a grant for a fully accessible modified vehicle.

"The vehicle will mean so much to this family" Mom says. We can go together as a family. The new vehicle will include a ramp so that Mom doesn't have to physically lift Tyler (getting bigger all the time) in and out of his car seat. Just another step in Tyler's independence.

"Bye Mom" . . . and zoom he is gone!



*It takes a village to raise a child and the **Children's Ability Fund** is very pleased to be as part of a village of caring organizations dedicated to providing equipment for children with disabilities.*

# special programs ←

## VEHICLE ADAPTATION PROGRAM

Accessible, affordable transportation for families of children with disabilities continues to be an ongoing challenge. Established in 2008, the **Children's Ability Fund** vehicle adaptation program offers a grant of up to \$5,000 towards the cost of accessible equipment for a vehicle or a complete vehicle modification.

*We all want to thank you so much we appreciate a lot. We do not have to transfer Joseph anymore and it's so much more comfortable for Joseph that he can stay in his wheelchair.*

*Isaak & Katharina*

*Thank you so very much for your generous donation of \$5,000 which was used towards the necessary modifications required to make Liam's new van wheelchair accessible.*

*Immediately after the day the van was brought home, Liam and I were able to attend a community event hosted by the church I serve.*

*It was wonderful to be able to take him on this adventure. We both enjoyed the outing very much and Liam appeared to be quite comfortable remaining in his wheelchair for the ride.*

*Since that day, Liam has been on quite a few adventures. Trips and outings are much more frequent than before Liam had his van. It is so much easier now to go places.*

*In the last few weeks we have made regular trips to the library, attended his grandfather's 90th birthday celebrations and attended church for worship services on Sunday and other church functions.*

*Even a trip to the Emergency Room at the Stollery was made less stressful because getting Liam there and back was faster.*

*With gratitude for your kindness,  
Deborah*



*Thank you so much for making this happen.*

*We are so happy you were able to help make this happen. Isabelle can get around so much easier now. We are actually going to the mountains this weekend for our first trip!*

*Life has just got so much easier because of you.*



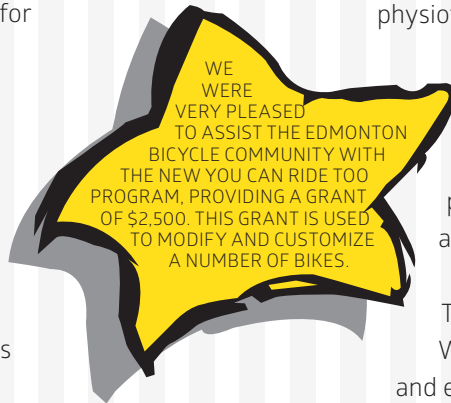
*Thank you to you and everyone else there who made this happen!*

*Love, from Laura and Isabelle*

## special programs ←

### BIKES FOR TYKES PROGRAM

The **Bikes for Tykes** program was introduced to provide funding for the adaptation of a bicycle for the individual needs of a child with a disability. Bikes provide an independent mode of transportation that helps build self-esteem and gives a sense of freedom. Special adaptations to a bicycle can help a child with disabilities “*delight in being a child*”.



### BIKES - PARTNERSHIP

**You Can Ride TOO** is a partnership between the pediatric physiotherapists and occupational therapists and the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society. Part of their vision is to assist children with special needs.

One of their programs – Adapted bicycle loan program – is an opportunity for families to borrow an adapted bike over the summer months.

Thank you for your support of the **You Can Ride TOO!** With your help 81 children borrowed adapted bikes and equipment in 2014. Damyn took to his new bike like an old pro. Already on his second day he knew exactly what he was doing and was super excited to ride!

### BURSARY

The **Children's Ability Fund** Bursary was established in 1998 to ensure a source of funds for a student with a disability entering the first year of a post-secondary program. Special thanks to the Kuder Trust Fund for their annual support of this program.

*Joint recipients of the 2014 Bursary were:*

**Allison Ikenouye** – Sexsmith

Thank you for considering investing in my dream to combine my fascination of the human psyche with my love of the arts; all through the eyes of a girl who feels the sting of disability but refuses to allow it to claim victory over my life.

Thank you so much for this generous bursary!

Allison is attending the University of Alberta Augustana Faculty in Camrose, AB. (Bachelor of Arts program – 4 years with a goal of attaining a Master's degree in Creative Therapy).

**Liam Dyer** – Grande Cache

“I have been able to turn some of my disabilities into abilities. If we all try to overcome our disabilities and help each other out we can help change the world for the better.”

Thank you for selecting me as a joint recipient for the 2014 **Children's Ability Fund** Bursary. The money I receive from this grant will go towards the additional cost of tutors and programs I need to succeed at university. What I hope to achieve at Augustana is to be able to live independently, being able to support myself as well as work hard to obtain my degree.

Liam is attending the University of Alberta Augustana Faculty in Camrose, AB. (Bachelor of Arts or Commerce – 4 years).

# thank you ←

Each and every year we receive personal donations from a plethora of people who believe in what we do. We couldn't continue to do what we do without you. **Thank you to each and every one of you!**

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Our Endowment Fund provides funding to assist with the administration and overhead cost of the **Children's Ability Fund** ensuring that all donations received are used to purchase equipment to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Every year a percentage of all new bequests are added to our Endowment Fund for continued growth and continuity. This year we are grateful to have received disbursements from the Ralph Buttner, Kuder and Hughes Trust Funds.

## IN MEMORY OF

Several people made a donation in honor of a loved one. At a time when they were remembering someone very dear to them, they also thought of others and extended their hand in support of those in need. This year we received donations in memory of:

- Shirley Walker
- Verna Carson
- Anna Byer
- John Hoegl
- Terry Lynne Wooldridge
- Pearl Scales
- Rando Biassini

Thanks to the decision to honour a life well lived, the **Children's Ability Fund**, inturn will be there to help others live better too.

## DONATIONS – FOUNDATIONS

- RBC Foundation
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Lede Foundation
- Canadian On-Line Giving Foundation
- Linda Joyce Charitable Foundation

### **The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative – Toscan Casale Foundation**

(YPI) is a one-of-a-kind experience that engages young people in social change and empowers them to participate

in the growing of compassionate communities. We were fortunate to have four young men from Westminster Junior High School chose the **Children's Ability Fund** as their community charity. After hours of work both in the classroom and out they compiled a slide show and made a presentation to the committee. Unfortunately they did not make it to the finals but we are very appreciative of their support and of the program.

## DONATIONS – CLUBS

- Order of the Royal Purple #125 - Vegreville
- Order of the Royal Purple #122 - Viking
- Camrose Council Catholic Women's League
- Wildwood Ladies Aid
- Legion Ladies Auxiliary #183 – Bonnyville
- Two Hills Ukrainian Womens Ass'n
- Royal Canadian Legion – Fox Creek
- Spruce Grove Lions Club
- Agriculture Society of Genesee
- Benevolent Protective Order of Elks – Hardisty
- Lions Club of Stony Plain
- Rocky Mountain House Lions Club
- Royal Canadian Legion #103 –Athabasca
- Royal Canadian Legion #38 – Bashaw
- Entwistle & District Lions Club
- Order of the Royal Purple Lodge #318 – Eaglesham
- St Joseph Assembly K of C
- St Thomas More Catholic Womens League - Fairview
- MTM Agricultural Society – Tiger Lily
- Rotary Club of Stony Plain
- Royal Canadian Legion #196 – Evansburg
- Lions Club of Waskatenau
- Ukrainian Women's Association - Waskatenau
- Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid – Ponoka
- Ladies Auxiliary Royal Canadian Legion #237 - Two Hills
- Thorhild Lions Club
- Royal Canadian Legion #100 – St Paul
- Order of the Royal Purple #309 – Lac La Biche



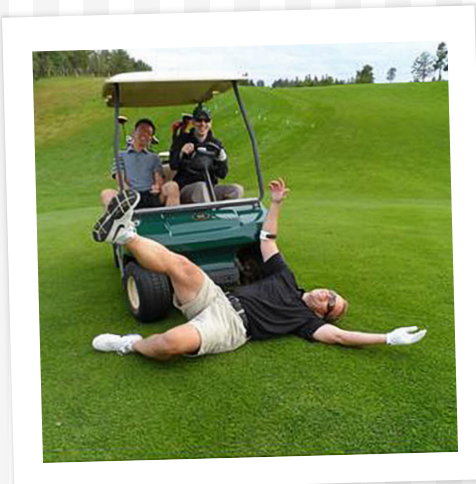
## special events ←

### SHINING STARS



**Children's Ability Fund** Shining Stars help make things a little brighter for someone with a disability. They encourage friends, customers, students and colleagues to help give the gift of mobility and independence! Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and support!

- Telus Strategy & Operations – Charity Golf Tournament
- Silent River Benevolent Foundation – Chinese New Year Celebration
- Silent River Kung Fu – Pandamonium
- Neonatrix Services - Synapse
- Vegreville Agriculture Society - Father's Day Demolition Derby
- Ken Gulevich – **Children's Ability Fund** Demolition Car



### GO AUTO 17TH ANNUAL BOWL FOR CHILDREN – May, 2015

On May 6th, at Ed's Rec Room in West Edmonton Mall, 27 lanes full of enthusiastic participants and local celebrities helped raise more than \$ 48,000 to support the **Children's Ability Fund**. The support of our title sponsor, event sponsors, lane sponsors, online auction bidders, celebrity team captains, and the participants who go above and beyond to raise pledges for the charity make it all happen.

#### **Children's Ability Fund truly appreciates and wants to thank all our supporters and our sponsors:**

GO AUTO leads the way as the title sponsor for a third year. Long time event sponsors; Ben Moss Jewellers, Double Diamond Electronics, West Edmonton Mall, Ed's Rec Room and Eberhardt Foods continue to be valued partners.

Big thanks to the lane sponsors: Allard Developments, Aspen Home Healthcare, Chandos Construction, Core Network Solutions, Cougar Paint & Collision, Eco Medical, Fibertel Communications, GO Kentwood Ford, KRP (Kingston Ross and Pasnak) LLP, Labatt Breweries, Melton Foundation, the Rig Shop, and Shoppers Home Health Care and to many local businesses who donated prizes for the auction and balloon pop.

A very special thank-you to all of the local celebrities who so willingly donate their time and bowling skills to captain the teams and to the many participants who collected pledges and helped make this such a success.

**So much fun for such a great cause!**



# volunteers ←

The **Children's Ability Fund** volunteers – including the Board of Directors - donated more than 270 hours of their precious time to help us out with several events and activities throughout the year.

We are pleased to recognize the following individuals for their achievement this year:

- **Bronze star** – Neera Garga, Boyd Leader, Ken Russ

**We couldn't do it without you!**



## GERRY HERMAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2015: RICHARD O

*"What goes around, comes around" - paying it forward.*

We first met Richard as a young lad in the early 90's. Over the years we have been delighted to provide a communication device that Richard used in high school and an overhead lift that was essential for him to have at home for his Mom and caregivers to assist with his lifts and transfers.

Richard knows full-well the benefits of being on the receiving end and realizes how much this support has enhanced his life.

Nowadays he enjoys the benefits of being able to help others!

Richard has been actively fundraising for the **Children's Ability Fund** (since 2003) by participating in our Bowl for

Children event. He is always among the top three pledge raisers and has raised several thousand dollars to help purchase equipment for others in need.

Richard is also our official "Ambassador" in the Parkland region and a terrific volunteer. He donates

his time to represent the **Children's Ability Fund** at several events each year. He has been a participant at Pandamonium (a fundraising event hosted by the Silent River Kung Fu Studio), the Chinese New Year's Celebration, a course marshal at the GWN triathlon and was the star on the **Children's Ability Fund** float in the Stony Plain Parade.

We are fortunate to have made a life-long friend in Richard and very proud to honor him with the 2015 Gerry Herman Volunteer of the Year Award.



*The Gerry Herman Volunteer of the Year award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Children's Ability Fund through volunteerism.*

# financial ←

## Children's Ability Fund Statement of Financial Position As of June 30

	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets	88,505	42,638
Investments	3,642,858	3,761,235
	<b>3,731,363</b>	<b>3,803,873</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities	93,200	15,936
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Beckett Trust	2,202,235	2,202,235
Endowment Fund	1,160,750	1,160,750
Bursary Fund	82,900	82,900
General Fund	192,278	342,052
	<b>3,731,363</b>	<b>3,803,873</b>

## Children's Ability Fund Statement of Operations For the Year Ended June 30

	2015	2014
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Investments	114,849	196,661
Estates & Legacies	20,233	144,698
Fundraising Projects & Gaming	95,686	114,320
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	-79,009	111,206
Donations & Grants	48,769	56,342
	<b>200,528</b>	<b>623,227</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Administration	135,525	152,158
Programs & Public Awareness	32,443	31,421
Fundraising Projects	21,020	21,812
	<b>188,988</b>	<b>205,391</b>
<b>DONATIONS Client Care</b>		
Individual Client Requests	157,175	190,346
Children's Ability Fund Bursary	5,000	2,500
	<b>162,175</b>	<b>192,846</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-150,635</b>	<b>224,990</b>

Audited Financial Statements have been prepared by independent external auditors Kingston Ross Pasnak and are available for review.

### Clifford & Mabel Becket Trust Fund

In 2000, the **Children's Ability Fund** received endowment proceeds from the Becket Trust. This has been placed in an internally restricted fund for future use.

### Endowment Fund

In 1987, the Board of Directors established the Endowment Fund to ensure that resources would be in place to meet the growing demand to provide the necessary funding for people with disabilities.



**Children's  
Ability Fund**  
of the Northern  
Alberta Crippled  
Children's Foundation



*The potential of one's self depends greatly on whether he or she has the ability to achieve it. If one loses ability it becomes difficult to fulfill potential, to become a fully participating member of society. This is why the **Children's Ability Fund** and the work it does is so important to the disabled community. It provides the equipment and devices necessary to individuals who need it in order to live lives with meaning and purpose.*

*In my own case, the **Children's Ability Fund** purchased a ramp for my modified wheelchair van fifteen years ago. (They also remembered me from all those years ago).*

*This year, when I needed elevating footrests on my wheelchair, the **Children's Ability Fund** covered the exorbitant cost of them as well as a lock-down mechanism for my wheelchair in my vehicle I now have the ability to elevate my footrests, and thus my legs, on my own. The ability to do this means I will have better circulation, less edema in my feet and the possibility to limit atrophy in my leg muscles. Combined, I have much less pain and do not need to rely on medication or other people to relieve that pain. I can focus on other things; like my education, my work, I can contribute more around my household, and I generally just feel better.*

*The lock-down mechanism in my vehicle locks my chair to the floor of the vehicle so if I am in an accident my chair does not flip, move, or turn over. Without this mechanism, I would not be able to use my vehicle and would either be stuck at home or need to rely on less reliable modes of transportation. Because of the **Children's Ability Fund**, I can now travel around the city in safety.*

*I am extremely fortunate to have what I have; a vehicle that many people don't have and a power wheelchair complete with elevating footrests. But costs for extras add up quickly and not everyone is as fortunate. Sometimes necessary items are not covered and still cost thousands of dollars.*

*People who need these items just to get out of bed are not looking for hand-outs; we are looking for the tools to become participating members of society and live worthwhile lives. The **Children's Ability Fund** provides those tools and with them comes the possibility for those with disabilities to live up to, and even exceed, their potential. It is essential that their work continues.*



Shawn McCloskey

