DISABILITY NETWORK OF MID-MICHIGAN

September 2019 NEWSLETTER

**ARTICLE 1 - Festifall in Downtown Midland**

Festifall is a community event on Saturday, September 28 in downtown Midland. The event coincides with the Northwood Auto Show and it offers a wide range of activities for kids, teens, and adults. So bring the family and friends to Main Street in Midland to celebrate the fall season!

Disability Network of Mid-Michigan will be sponsoring Corn hole games. Stop on by our booth to play!

Additional events and activities include:

From 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM - Arts & Crafts, Mini Golf Hole in One Challenge, Checkers, Tic-Tac-Toe, Make-it Take-it Scarecrow, DJ Dance Party, Face Painting, Food Trucks, Giant Jenga, Magic, Photo Booth, Bowling, and more!

From 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Movies on Main at Ace Hardware & Sports

From 7:30 PM - 11:30 PM - Woody's Taproom Presented by CDK Global

We look forward to seeing you downtown!

**ARTICLE 2 -** Personalized Assistive Technology Demonstration

Are you or someone you know having a harder time doing things around the house? Trying to find that right piece of equipment to make daily life easier?

Assistive Technology (AT) is anything that makes it easier for people with disabilities to do everyday tasks in the home, at work, or in the community.

DNMM is offering FREE one-on-one or small group demonstrations to educate people on their options for maintaining independence.

Learn the role of AT in helping people decrease hospitalizations and stays in nursing facilities. Explore dozens of low-cost AT devices that can help you or your loved one preserve their independence.

Learn about AT assistance in areas like: Eating and Cooking, Memory and Cognition, Mobility, Walking, Dressing, Grooming, Recreation, and Environmental Controls.

If you're interested in a demonstration, call us today! 989-835-4041.

**ARTICLE 3 - G**ive change for change benefiting united way of midland county

DNMM is holding a "Give Change For Change" fundraising drive to benefit United Way of Midland County.

From now through October 25th, gather up any loose change you have, be sure to check between the sofa cushions, grab that old mason jar, and stop by Disability Network, 1705 S. Saginaw Rd. to drop off your donation.

When you're on your way to work, running errands, or grabbing a bite to eat, stop on by and give some change. We're happy to take the change that jingles, but we'll gladly accept the kind that folds.

United Way of Midland County advances the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Their focus is on education, health and self-sufficiency-the building blocks for a good life. They invest in 62 community impact programs with 24 local non-profit agencies, who are dedicated to community level goals and changing the lives of every individual that they serve.

Disability Network is just one of the many organizations supported by United Way. We're giving change to give back to United Way as a way of saying "Thank You" for all they do for so many in our community.

We hope you'll join us as we Give Change. For Change. For more information, please click here to contact Matthew Ivan at Disability Network or call 989-835-4041.

**ARTICLE 4 -** MICHIGAN OPERATIONS FREEDOM OUTDOORS HOSTS DAVID POLLIE CLASSIC ESSAY CONTEST

An opportunity to win a tracked wheelchair for greater accessibility to outdoor recreation.

A special state parks centennial edition of Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors' annual David Pollie Classic essay contest, sponsored by the Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation, is now open for entries. MiOFO will award a tracked wheelchair to a person who has a medical need for this type of device and who has no other means of obtaining it.

The contest is named after David Pollie, who was injured in his youth and became paralyzed. His standard wheelchairs limited his ability to enjoy one of his greatest pleasures - time spent outdoors hunting with his brother.

To help get him back outdoors with his independence, Pollie's family started a fundraiser to purchase a tracked wheelchair. His friends and family raised half the money needed but fell short of their goal and contacted the local media to help raise awareness of his need. An anonymous donor, moved by Pollie's story, donated the remaining money needed for the chair.

"Sadly, Dave left this earth, but he lived his days to the fullest, and we are proud to have known him," said Tom Jones, Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors project coordinator. "It is in this spirit of giving and with great respect to Dave and his family that MiOFO will provide a tracked wheelchair to an individual with this same love of life spent outdoors."

Tracked wheelchairs, also called track chairs, are battery-powered and can go off-road, handling trails, sand, snow and up to 8 inches of water. The Department of Natural Resources has track chairs, donated by Kali's Cure for Paralysis Foundation, available for visitors at Belle Isle Park, Maybury State Park, Muskegon State Park, Tahquamenon Falls State Park and Waterloo Recreation Area.

"This campaign has focused on celebrating the memories made in state parks for 100 years," said Maia Turek, engagement specialist for the DNR. "As we look toward the next 100 years, there is a strong focus on making Michigan's natural resources available for people of all abilities to enjoy. The Dave Pollie Classic makes this possible, creating an opportunity to adventure with independence."

Contest entry details:

To enter the contest, participants must submit a one-page essay or two-minute video, along with an entry form. Contest entries should be submitted to tjones.miofo@gmail.com.

The essay or video should detail the reasons why the contest entrant deserves the tracked wheelchair. The essay may be written by friends, family, teachers, classmates or contest entrants themselves.

Only one contest entry may be submitted per person. The entry form and complete contest rules can be found at MiOFO.org. Entries will be accepted through Oct. 15. The winner will be notified around Nov. 15.

Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors is a cooperative partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Eisenhower Center, Garmin, The Union Sportsman's Alliance, and the UAW Ford Ramp Team. Its mission is to provide improved outdoor recreation opportunities for individuals with health challenges and to coordinate a support network that facilitates their recovery through connecting with nature. To learn more, visit MiOFO.org.

**ARTICLE 5 -** You Can Serve!

After the 2020 Census is completed, Michigan's first Independent Citizen's Redistricting Commission will draw the voting districts for electing Michigan's Congressional representatives and state legislators. Beginning later this year, Michigan voters can apply to be on the Commission.

The Commission was created when Michigan voters passed Proposal 2, to end gerrymandering in Michigan. The lines the first Commission draws will affect Michigan's elections starting in 2022. Any registered voter can apply to be a Commissioner. No special expertise is required. Only people with conflicts of interest (such as politicians and lobbyists) will not be eligible to serve.

Commissioners will serve until the district lines are finalized (1 to 3 years, starting in late 2020). Commissioners will have a salary of about $40,000 a year.

INTERESTED? To sign up for updates on the application process: Text DRAWTHELINE to 555-888.

QUESTIONS? Call or text Jackie at (989) 928-3181 or click here to submit questions via email.

**ARTICLE 6 - MI ABLE CAN HELP YOU SAVE**

The Michigan Able Act was signed into law in October 2015, following passage in December 2014 of the federal Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which authorized states to establish tax-advantaged savings programs for individuals with disabilities.

The goal is to encourage and assist individuals and families in saving funds that help individuals with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life without jeopardizing benefits provided through private insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, the beneficiary's employment and other sources.

The goal of MiABLE's "I Will Never Lose" campaign is to reach out to individuals with disabilities, and their families, who haven't yet taken advantage of the program created to help them save for current and future expenses without jeopardizing eligibility for government benefits.

Approximately 300,000 Michigan residents with disabilities are eligible for MiABLE, including 28,000 in the Great Lakes Bay Region and Thumb. Yet largely because of a lack of awareness, less than 1% of those who qualify are currently enrolled.

For more information, please call 1-844-656-7225.

**ARTICLE 7 - FEATHERS AND FEDORAS**

Save the Date! DNMM’s annual fundraiser, Feathers and Fedoras, a Roaring Twenties gala, is Saturday, February 15th, 2020 from 5:30 to 11:00 PM at the Great Hall in Midland.

**ARTICLE 8 – WE’RE HIRING!**

WE'RE HIRING!

Whether you're seeking full-time employment or just a few hours of part-time work:

YOU can make a difference in someone's life! YOU can help a person with a disability live independently!

As part of our Bay County Independent Living Assistance program, you provide personalized support to individuals who need assistance accessing support in their communities. You work directly with the consumer to help them meet their goals and create the lifestyle they choose.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS. WAGES: $10 - $10.50 PER HOUR

Must have a valid Michigan Driver License, with a good driving record, and dependable and insured transportation. Must be able to pass a criminal background check. Training will be provided.

If you want to make a difference, please call 989-895-2363.

To learn about additional employment opportunities at DNMM, please visit http://www.dnmm.org/employment

**ARTICLE 9 - STATEMENT OF INCLUSION**

At Disability Network of Mid-Michigan, inclusion is a universal human right for all people, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or any other discernible quality. To be inclusive is to promote a sense of belonging, respect, and value for who you are as a person. It is about equal access and opportunities for everyone. Inclusion is an integral part of our Independent Living philosophy and of our agency's vision of "Accessible and Inclusive communities that provide opportunities for individual choice."

In the twelve counties we serve in Mid-Michigan, Disability Network offices have been, and continue to be, places of solace, understanding, and information for all. We are committed to promoting and protecting diversity and inclusion, within our offices, among our community partners, and throughout the 15 Centers for Independent Living in Michigan.

**ARTICLE 10 – STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILTY**

DNMM advocates for the removal of barriers to independence and full inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the Mid-Michigan area. DNMM pledges to ensure accessibility. Each year, DNMM conducts a review of its own architectural, environmental, attitudinal, employment, communication, transportation, and other barriers that may exist which prohibit full access to our services.

 If you have any issues of concern regarding the accessibility of DNMM services and facilities, we encourage you to share that information with us.

 Please send your concerns or suggestions to:

Executive Director
Disability Network of Mid-Michigan
1705 S. Saginaw Road
Midland, MI 48640