



*helping others to help themselves*

**Fall 2022**

# Insider

## **NDAD'S MISSION:**

Enhance the quality of lives  
of individuals facing health challenges.

## Providing pathways to accessibility

To complete any task, it helps to avoid obstacles. For someone with a disability or health concern, obstacles in daily living can multiply quickly, complicating otherwise simple tasks and even putting some beyond their reach.

That's when NDAD's charitable services can prove invaluable. We specialize in providing our clients with pathways to accessibility.

For instance, NDAD's assistance has helped Grand Forks' Gary Edwards (right) get past several barriers while dealing with disability challenges that limit his mobility.

Home and vehicle accessibility is one of multiple needs that NDAD's Direct Financial Assistance Program has improved for adults and children throughout North Dakota and directly adjacent border communities. Follow Gary's lead and find out how. ■



**INSIDE:** New Williston office opens | Transportation assistance for Fargo  
Adaptive Recreation Grants awards | ND's Centers for Independent Living



# Gary Edwards

*When Grand Forks man needed a lift, NDAD helped elevate his scooter, life*

“I just feel trapped,” Gary Edwards told Lora Machart one day this spring. NDAD’s Grand Forks client services representative knew our charity had helped the 65-year-old Edwards several times before, loaning him a wheelchair and later a scooter for use until he had purchased both with help from his medical insurance.

This time Gary, whose has diabetes, a partially amputated foot and difficulties moving great distances using a rollator, desired to make his new scooter even more useful by allowing him to use it at destinations away from his south Grand Forks residence. He wanted to add a scooter lift to his SUV, but he couldn’t afford its purchase on his own.

So, he turned to NDAD to apply for assistance.

The process wasn’t complicated at all, Gary said.

“Lora just sent me forms to fill out and I sent them back in,” he recalled. “It didn’t take long for her to contact me. She said, ‘Great news! We’re going to cover your scooter lift for you.’”

Once again, Gary said with a satisfied smile, NDAD came through. For him, the scooter lift has been “a savior.”

“It’s slick,” he said. “It’s enabled me to go to the bank. To go to Hugo’s (supermarket) if I just need milk or something.”

Gary was especially grateful that he could drive himself and his scooter to the celebration of life for his brother Greg, who died in May.

“I was able to do all sorts of things (with) a lot more freedom,” he said. “And I felt like a real person, you know, where before I was just trapped, basically.”

NDAD helped Gary through its Direct Financial Assistance Program, which includes home and vehicle accessibility among its areas of support.

“Oh, I would recommend (NDAD) 100%,” he said. He recalled a recent example when he told neighbors “just how grateful I was to NDAD and what they’ve done for me.”

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*Contact your nearest NDAD office or call (800) 532-NDAD for more information about our charitable programs. ■*



“Believe me, it made my day to get that lift in there. I wouldn’t have been able to afford it. It was a godsend. I told Lora [Machart, NDAD client services representative] she’s my angel.”



# Williston's full-service office opens

**N**orthwest North Dakota now is home to an NDAD office that's dedicated wholly to our services for people with health issues and disabilities.

The office features our charity's fifth full-time client services representative, an expanded Healthcare Equipment Loan Program (HELP) inventory and an array of other assistance programs.

The fully accessible Williston office is on the second floor of the 20/20 Professional Center (above), 1500 14th St. W., Suite 295.

Regular office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Contact NDAD's Rae Lundy (above, right) at (701) 774-0741 or [williston@ndad.org](mailto:williston@ndad.org) for more



information or to arrange to borrow home health equipment for up to 90 days, including wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, shower chairs and benches, toilet risers and more.

Minot, Bismarck, Fargo and Grand Forks are NDAD's other client services office locations.

NDAD's next expansion effort is expected to center on southwest North Dakota, currently served through our Bismarck office. ■

## Five organizations get Adaptive Recreation Grants

NDAD has awarded five 2022 Adaptive Recreation Grants to help projects that support recreational opportunities for people with disabilities in North Dakota.

Grant awards of up to \$5,000 each went to:

**Edinburg Playground Project**, Edinburg, in partnership with North Dakota Community Foundation, to help bring accessible, safe and updated playground equipment to that Walsh County community's City Park.

**Grand Forks YMCA**, Grand Forks, to obtain a SciFit machine through its Y Med Fit Adaptive Equipment Program to help people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues obtain a cardiovascular workout in a safe and comfortable manner.

**HeartSprings Community Healing Center**,

Fargo, to help people in recovery from traumatic brain injuries receive regularly scheduled "moving meditation" sessions – called T'ai Chi Chih – led by an experienced physical therapist.

**Missouri Valley Family YMCA**, Bismarck, to help extend critical swim lessons programs to children with down syndrome, autism

and other sensory disorders through use of specialized training and equipment.

**Altru Family YMCA**, Grand Forks, to purchase materials to accommodate the needs of adults and children with special needs who participate in adaptive swimming lessons.

This is the second year NDAD has awarded grants for adaptive recreation projects.

Congratulations from our charitable nonprofit to these recipients and those communities they serve. ■





### Four Fargo metro towns gain TAP

NDAD, with help from a grant provided by Swanson Cares, currently offers the Transportation

# TAP

Transportation  
Assistance Program

Assistance Program (TAP) for in-town medical travel in Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead and Dilworth, Minn., to residents of those four communities.

TAP covers transportation costs to facilities for services such as wellness and prenatal check-ups, behavioral health treatment, dental cleanings and eye exams, among others. Qualified applicants receive gas cards or city bus fare as funding is available. More information and a downloadable application is available at NDAD's website: [https://ndad.org/news/TAP\\_Fargo/](https://ndad.org/news/TAP_Fargo/).

NDAD, with a grant from Altru Alliance, earlier introduced TAP for Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. Details: <https://ndad.org/services/FinancialAssistance/transportation/>.

### State's CILs support community living

Independent living services for North Dakotans with disabilities along with tools, resources and other supports are provided by four organizations, each a Center for Independent Living (CIL) designed and operated by individuals with disabilities.

The organizations: [Dakota CIL](#), Bismarck, with a Dickinson branch; [Freedom Resource CIL](#), Fargo, with Jamestown, Lisbon and Wahpeton branches; [Independence, Inc.](#), CIL, Minot; and [Options Resource CIL](#), East Grand Forks, Minn.

With federal funding support and guidance using a plan jointly developed by the [Statewide Independent Living Council](#) and the [state's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation \(DVR\)](#), the CILs promote equal opportunities, self-determination and respect. CILs provide independent living skills training, peer support, individual and systems advocacy, information and referral, and youth and institutional transition. For more information, call DVR at (800) 755-2745 or (701) 328-8950.

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***Our charitable programs help North Dakota and directly adjacent border communities with:***

Prescription Medications | Local Accessible Transit | Out-of-town Medical Travel  
Medical Equipment and Supplies | Adaptive Recreation  
Home and Vehicle Accessibility | Personal Attendant Care ... and more!

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NDAD is a nonprofit, charitable organization founded by concerned citizens to assist mentally and physically disadvantaged people in North Dakota, many of whom are not eligible for services from other agencies. NDAD provides financial assistance through funds generated by both the organization and community projects. NDAD also provides information and referral services to help people receive assistance through other agencies, when possible.

***It's **AMAZING** what people can do when there's **help**.***

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**It's for  
You.**