



# NDAD

helping others to help themselves

Fall 2018

# Insider

**NDAD'S MISSION:**  
Enhance the quality of lives  
of individuals facing health challenges.

## Jenny Chavez

*NDAD helps fill desperate need*

■ ‘It’s a whole lot better now’  
thanks to replaced equipment

**N**DAD provided much-needed assistance to Jenny Chavez years ago to help widen the doorways in the Devils Lake mobile home she purchased and also to install an accessible shower.

Jenny has quadriplegia caused by a 2000 auto accident. The 39-year-old uses a wheelchair and a wheeled commode that doubles as a shower chair.

By spring 2018, Jenny desperately needed to replace the shower chair/commode, now quite worn and unusable. Her insurance wouldn’t help her purchase a replacement – a serious worry given her limited budgeted income from Social Security disability. “By the time I’m getting stuff for the house, myself, bills, personal necessities,” Jenny said, “I’m broke.”

Jenny’s occupational therapist at Altru Health System in Grand Forks contacted NDAD, which quickly sent Jenny an application for general assistance. In short time, the charity approved her application and ordered her a new portable shower chair/commode. For Jenny, it was a huge relief.

“*I’m happy that (NDAD) was able to help. I don’t know who I could have gone to if I would have gotten denied.*”

**Jenny Chavez**

“It tilts back. It works out great,” Jenny said. “Yeah, it’s a whole lot better now that I have this one....(NDAD) helped me out a lot. I’m really appreciative for that.” Lora Machart, NDAD’s northeast North Dakota client services representative, was good to work with and “very helpful,” Jenny added.

NDAD was “just great to work with. It was so easy and fast,” she said. “I’m very happy and very satisfied.”

Learn about the assistance NDAD provides at [NDAD.org](http://NDAD.org). ■



# Jillian Schaible

*Paratransit tickets assist Bismarck woman's volunteerism*

■ NDAD program helps maintain community involvement she seeks

Transportation access is a daunting challenge for many people with a wide range of disabilities in North Dakota. Bismarck native Jillian Schaible knows this first hand. She's taken it upon herself to try and better matters, particularly in her community, through volunteerism and as a watchdog over local public transit issues.

Jillian, who has cerebral palsy, does not drive and frequently uses a power wheelchair that gives her more independence. She improved her own transportation access

about three years ago when she applied for and began receiving transportation assistance from NDAD through Bis-Man Transit, the public transportation system for Bismarck, Mandan and Lincoln.

Each month, she receives assistance for up to 12 round-trip rides. "It's very helpful," said Jillian, whose volunteerism includes sitting on the planning committee for Bismarck's Great American Bike Race. "Even if it covers my volunteer stuff and those types of things I'm involved in to help other people, it offsets some of the other costs for me. I can schedule and I can kind of plan out what I'm doing and what I need to do and see how many things I need to attend."

Jillian, who's on a fixed income, has taken on a mix of paid and volunteer work over the years. She continues to look for "suitable employment," she said, but those jobs are scarce. Complicating matters, Jillian said, are recent paratransit rule changes that challenge riders' abilities to meet set work hours and appointments while reducing flexibility.

Still, NDAD's transit help is "fantastic," Jillian said. She hopes more people will be able to take advantage of NDAD paratransit assistance so they can come closer to "being in the community the way they want to be."

Read an [expanded version of this article](#) at NDAD.org. ■

*"I think (NDAD's paratransit assistance) is fantastic.... I didn't even know there was such an option until someone else mentioned it to me on the transit."*

**Jillian Schaible**



## Getting aboard NDAD's program for paratransit rides

NDAD's general assistance program can include help with public transportation costs for paratransit services, specifically for people with mobility issues who cannot use regular fixed-route city buses. Typically, paratransit provides door-to-door accessible transport using an advance-notice reservation system through the transit provider. Required notice may range from same-day reservations to at least 24 hours in advance, depending on the agency. Some paratransit rides may be shared with other passengers.

[Get more program information at NDAD.org.](#)

**ABOUT NDAD INSIDER**  
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## IN BRIEF

### Need assistance with heating costs?

People with disabilities who have low or fixed incomes are among the primary targets of a federally funded program to help with heating costs each cold-weather season.

Applications are being accepted now through May 31, 2019, by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which pays a portion of home heating costs for qualifying households.

Program participants may also benefit from weatherization services funded by LIHEAP that include furnace repair, replacement and cleaning; chimney inspections; and home insulation and weather stripping around doors and windows.



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

If you need help completing and submitting this application, contact [Community Options](#), (800) 823-2417, ext. 158.

[More information about LIHEAP at nd.gov.](#)



### Regional aging and disability conference Oct. 17

“Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow” is the theme of this year’s Northern Plains Conference on Aging & Disability, set for Wed., Oct. 17, at Delta by Marriott Fargo.

Conference topics include ethical decision making and social work, self-protection and predator awareness, childhood adversity and its effects on aging, community inclusion and equity while aging, and self-care. More information about and registration for this event at [northernplainsconference.com](#).

### Trunk or Treat events set in some N.D. communities

Fall events that combine greater accessibility for children with disabilities and trick-or-treat traditions are being scheduled at various area locations, almost always in parking lots or other level surfaces that allow easier use of wheelchairs and other assistive devices. They include:

- **Fargo** — Sun., Oct. 21, 1 to 3 p.m., Dakota Medical Foundation, 4141 28th Ave. S. Info: Julie and Chuck Grummons, [fvndtot@outlook.com](mailto:fvndtot@outlook.com) or (218) 790-7157.
- **Bismarck** — Sat., Oct. 27, 3 to 6 p.m., Gateway Mall parking lot, north side, 2700 State St. Info: Rita Gieser, (701) 425-3480 or [Rita.gieser@gmail.com](mailto:Rita.gieser@gmail.com); Vicki Peterson, [vickiasdc@bis.midco.net](mailto:vickiasdc@bis.midco.net) or (701) 258-2237.
- **Grand Forks** — Sun., Oct. 28, 1 to 3 p.m., Lincoln Drive Park. Info: Joan Karpenko, [joankarpenko@hotmail.com](mailto:joankarpenko@hotmail.com) or (701) 330-8641.



**Did you know?** [ND Parent to Parent](#) is a statewide network of parents trained to be mentors and offer emotional support, information, resources and other assistance to help families of children with developmental delays, disabilities and special health needs.

This network is a project of [Family Voices of North Dakota](#). Info: (888)522-9654.

## NDAD IN BRIEF

■ **Ashilee Larson** is the new program services director for NDAD's Williston office. A native of Williston, Larson began her job Aug. 20.

[Contact the Williston office online](#) or by using the NDAD offices information at the bottom of this page.

■ Upcoming NDAD-sponsored [community fundraiser](#) events include:

- Thurs., Oct. 18, 5 to 8 p.m., East Grand Forks (Minn.) Eagles, for [Rob Hanson](#) memorial benefit. Hanson, Grand Forks, died at age 58 while awaiting a heart and kidney transplant in Rochester, Minn.
- Sat., Nov. 3, 2 to 8 p.m., East Grand Forks (Minn.) VFW, for [Colleen Brown Driscoll](#), Grand Forks, who has advanced ovarian cancer.

More information at [NDAD.org](#) and [NDAD's Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

## Walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs and HELP

These are the three most sought durable medical equipment items for free short-term loans from NDAD's popular Healthcare Equipment Loan Program (HELP).

We hope to help you when you need it. Call your nearest NDAD office in advance to make sure what you're looking for is available.

NDAD has many other pieces of equipment for loan for up to 90 days.

[Learn more about HELP at NDAD.org.](#)

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#### FARGO

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(888) 363-NDAD  
21 N. University Drive  
Fargo, ND 58102

#### WILLISTON

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(877) 777-NDAD  
P.O. Box 1503  
309 Washington Ave.  
Williston, ND 58801

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**.*