Anna Magnuson is no stranger to NDAD’s mission. In fact, just like hundreds of others with disabilities and health issues, the 29-year-old Grand Forks woman with cerebral palsy has been at our mission’s core.

“I’m very thankful that we have a place like this,” she said, with lots of heart. Anna is one of NDAD’S five ambassadors for Giving Hearts Day 2019, which arrives Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day. It’s an opportunity to count yourself among the North Dakotans and its out-of-state border community residents who will become part of NDAD’s charitable nonprofit mission.

Your contributions that day will help many of our region’s residents who are most in need face and overcome obstacles that threaten their health and limit their mobility and independence.
Anna Magnuson

Multiple NDAD programs help Grand Forks woman

‘Very thankful’ charity’s generosity gives her more independence

NDAD and Anna Magnuson have been personally acquainted for at least several of Anna’s 29 years.

Given Anna’s cerebral palsy, she and her family knew since her childhood of NDAD’s charitable service to people with disabilities. They never thought of using NDAD “until our van went on the fritz a couple of times,” Anna recalled.

Several years ago, the Magnusons came to NDAD when their own accessible van’s wheelchair ramp wasn’t working correctly. To get by until it was corrected, Anna said, the family borrowed one of NDAD’s two accessible vans in Grand Forks for several scheduled trips, including a Fargo medical appointment. Borrowing the van “worked out really well,” Anna recalled.

When Anna had surgery in the spring of 2016 and couldn’t be lifted easily during convalescence, she borrowed durable medical equipment at no cost from NDAD’s Healthcare Equipment Loan Program (HELP) to help keep the Magnuson house accessible for her.

Then, in 2018, Anna obtained a replacement power wheelchair through insurance. With money provided mostly by NDAD, she added wheelchair equipment that improved her access to more of her surroundings, in turn reducing the need for another’s assistance or using a reacher, Anna said. Insurance would not cover the additional equipment, she said.

“I’m very thankful we have a place like (NDAD). . . . I’ve received help and guidance in many different aspects and ways.”

Anna Magnuson

“I’m able to be so much more independent to reach things I couldn’t reach before. . . . So I’m very grateful for it,” Anna said. “I’m very thankful because without (NDAD’s) help I don’t think I would have been able” to afford the adjustment.

Read an expanded version of Anna’s story at NDAD.org.

ABOUT NDAD INSIDER
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Count them 4 NDAD, too

You've learned how NDAD has helped Anna Magnuson of Grand Forks, and on Page 4 you'll meet Williston’s Pedro Martinez, another grateful NDAD client. Now, we’re honored to introduce three more NDAD ambassadors for Giving Hearts Day 2019:

Deanna Bakken, Fargo, received medical equipment from NDAD to help improve her mobility.

Kenadi Zappone, Minot, gets to and from out-of-town medical appointments with NDAD travel assistance.

Seth Kasper, Bismarck, gets tickets for accessible metro transit and attends NDAD’s annual adaptive water-ski event, Escape to the Lake.

NDAD services help to provide a healthier and more mobile and independent life for hundreds of our region’s adults and children with serious health or physical challenges and essential unmet needs.

Your donations truly help NDAD fulfill our mission.

Say “Count Me 4 NDAD” this Giving Hearts Day.

Go to givingheartsday.org and give online to NDAD on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14.

Or, mail or drop off a check at any NDAD office on or before Feb. 14. Please make your check payable to NDAD, date the check Feb. 14, 2019, and write “Giving Hearts Day” on the memo line.
Pedro Gonzalez

Williston man relies on NDAD’s medical travel assistance

Charity helps get him to Bismarck for post-transplant appointments

Pedro Gonzalez of Williston is an early 2018 kidney transplant recipient who’s been buoyed by NDAD’s invaluable assistance for medical travel needs to and from Bismarck for his scheduled post-transplant appointments.

“The NDAD is a great place that gives people help,” said Pedro, who’s 40. “I urge people if they need any help with anything, and if they feel like there’s no hope, or even any help that they can get, you can always call the NDAD. And they will try their hardest to help you in any way they can.”

Pedro has battled continued intestinal issues. In November, he underwent surgery to remove most of his colon after a large obstruction was found. He’s had several emergency hospital visits. “So the last couple of months have not been very good to me,” he concedes. Yet, the 40-year-old Williston resident doesn’t want your sympathy. Anything but, in fact. The San Bernadino, Calif., native prefers building upon the help he’s gotten from NDAD, his sister-in-law, Jennifer, who gifted one of her kidneys to him, and his big brother and closest sibling, Roman, who volunteered one of his own kidneys and helps support him in other ways.

Pedro hopes his enthusiastic endorsement of NDAD will help share the good fortune he’s had with others in serious need.

Learn more about Pedro and other Giving Hearts Day ambassadors in coming weeks at NDAD.org.

About NDAD’s medical travel assistance

NDAD’s charitable general assistance program helps North Dakotans with disabilities and health challenges who have needs but few if any places to turn for help. One of the key areas of need is out-of-town medical travel.

Applicants for medical travel assistance from NDAD must meet income guidelines and certain criteria, mainly:

• The travel must be for specialized treatment referred by a primary care physician.
• The travel must be to the closest available facility for that specialized treatment, with mileage restrictions. (Call your local NDAD office for details.)
• A copy of the applicant’s appointment verification must be provided to NDAD.

Eligible applicants may receive help with a gas card for round-trip travel and lodging help when it isn’t available through other programs, such as Medicaid, for which the applicant may qualify. Complete NDAD’s fillable-form application online, or contact NDAD to learn more.
IN BRIEF

N.D. tax credits, exemptions may be available for some people with disabilities

Tax season is here again, and individuals with disabilities may be able to reduce their North Dakota property tax or state income tax burdens:

- **Homestead Property Tax Credit** – This North Dakota credit reduces property taxes of individuals with an annual income of $42,000 or less who are 65 and older, or permanently and totally disabled. A separate refund of up to $400 is available to renters. [https://www.nd.gov/tax/homestead/](https://www.nd.gov/tax/homestead/).

- **Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit** – Available to retired or honorably discharged U.S. armed forces veterans with a Veterans Affairs disability rating of 50 percent or greater. If eligible, the credit may reduce the taxable value of your homestead. [https://bit.ly/2E6zv8I](https://bit.ly/2E6zv8I).

- **Property Tax Exemption** – Available to any paraplegic disabled veteran who’s been awarded adaptive housing from the VA, or any permanently and totally disabled person confined to a wheelchair. [http://www.nd.gov/veterans/benefits/tax-information](http://www.nd.gov/veterans/benefits/tax-information).

- **Family Member Care Tax Credit** – Income tax credit equal to 20 percent to 30 percent of qualified care expense payments made by an individual, with the credit dependant on the individual’s federal taxable income. The qualified family member must be related by blood or marriage, at least 65 years of age or disabled (Social Security definition) and have a federal taxable income of no more than $20,000 ($35,000, if married). [https://bit.ly/2QeTTuU](https://bit.ly/2QeTTuU).

Individuals with a disability may get free tax preparation from trained tax professionals at more than 40 combined AARP / IRS locations across North Dakota and western Minnesota.

More information, including locations and what you should bring to an appointment: [https://www.nd.gov/tax/freetaxprep/](https://www.nd.gov/tax/freetaxprep/).

66th N.D. Legislative session starts Jan. 3 in Bismarck

The North Dakota Legislature meets in session every two years. The next one starts Thurs., Jan. 3.

Sessions are limited to 80 legislative days; this one is set to end on April 26.

The home page address for the North Dakota Legislature is: [https://www.legis.nd.gov](https://www.legis.nd.gov).

There, you’ll find links to the legislative calendar, bill tracking system, news releases, upcoming meetings, House and Senate rosters, brief legislative biographies and more.

You also can find out how to obtain a phone app to follow the Legislature’s daily schedule and personalize it, too.

Legislation affecting people with disabilities and health concerns, including Medicaid expansion and work requirements, managed care and wages for community developmentally disabled staff, are scheduled for this session.
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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**Never miss a single edition of NDAD Insider**

It’s easy to do. Provide your email address using this link.

Or, contact mbrue@ndad.org, or call (800) 532-NDAD.

If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter, please contact us by email or phone and provide your name, home or business mailing address and phone number.

Thank you for your interest in NDAD.

Visit us online at [NDAD.org](https://ndad.org)

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**NDAD IN BRIEF**

- NDAD’s popular **Healthcare Equipment Loan Program (HELP)** ([https://ndad.org/services/equipment/](https://ndad.org/services/equipment/)), which provides free durable medical equipment loans for up to 90 days from our four North Dakota office sites, has received boosts from multiple grants awarded to our charitable nonprofit this fall:
  - North Dakota Community Foundation, for statewide HELP
  - Verendrye Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up, for north-central N.D. HELP
  - Alerus Financial community involvement program, for Fargo area HELP
  - Service Providers for Seniors of Grand Forks, for Grand Forks area HELP

Andie Greidanus, 5, of Drayton, cut her left foot on broken glass in September. She got around better after she and her mom, Kris, borrowed a small wheelchair from NDAD’s Healthcare Equipment Loan Program (HELP) out of our Grand Forks office. She borrowed child crutches, too, all at no cost. Contact your nearest NDAD office for HELP details: [https://ndad.org/contact/](https://ndad.org/contact/).