



The Enabling News is a quarterly newsletter written and produced by Access II staff for Access II consumers, staff, board members, and community partners.

For content submissions, ideas, or questions contact:

Jessica Adkins  
Marketing Director  
jadkins@accessii.org

## Access II I.L.C

101 Industrial Parkway  
Gallatin, MO 64640

(660)-663-2423  
(888)-663-2423

access@accessii.org



@accessii

# ENABLING NEWS

## Access II

### Independent Living Center

July 2021

Volume 87

## Wellness Center Progress Continues



*Pictured above: Main entrance to the Fitness Center takes shape.*

Progress continues on the Community Wellness Center located on the Access II ILC property in Gallatin, MO. The property sits just to the West of Access II's main building in the Gallatin Industrial Park. Timberwolf Construction LLC has been working over the past several months to get the building completed before a highly anticipated grand opening this Fall. An official opening date has not been scheduled and will ultimately depend on construction completion.



## JOIN OUR TEAM

Access II is currently accepting applications for:

### **In-Homes Aides & Personal Assistants**

(Multiple Counties)

To apply through Facebook—[Click Here](#)

Please submit resumes for In-Home Aides/Personal Assistants to Deena McCallon at [dmccallon@accessii.org](mailto:dmccallon@accessii.org)

Call 660-663-2423 for more information on how to apply for these positions

Construction crews have completed the exterior of the building and are currently focusing on completing interior projects. HVAC has been installed and crews have completed framing, drywall, and are currently working on completing bathroom areas and installing cabinetry. Crews will soon be working to seal the floors so fitness equipment can be installed in the next few days. Work will continue through the summer and crews are expecting to be finished in August 2021.

The facility will be open to people with and without disabilities in the community. Inside, members will find a variety of adaptive and standard fitness equipment in an effort to create a truly inclusive environment for everyone.

## **New Faces in the Office**



*Pictured above at left: Vladimir Arutyunyan, Employment Specialist  
Pictured at right: Chasidy Renne, Payroll Specialist*

Access II welcomed two new staff members to our team in May. Vladimir Arutyunyan joined Access II as the new Employment Specialist. Vlad will be assisting job seekers with disabilities in building work place soft skills, creating resumes, and assisting them on their journeys in seeking gainful employment in the community. Chasidy will be working in our financial department processing payroll, reviewing and entering timesheets, updating plans of care, and entering new attendants and consumers into our financial system.

About Vlad: Vlad has a Bachelor of Health Science, a certification in personal training from NPTI Colorado Springs, and is a Marine Corps veteran. He was born in Kiev, Ukraine, and is currently residing in Hamilton, MO with his wife, daughter, and cat, Fizzle. Vlad enjoys staying active and helping to improve the lives of people around him.

## Get Connected

Find us on Facebook for up to date news, giveaways and more.

Just search  
Access II

@accessii



Make a Donation  
Today!

[PayPal.Me/  
CWellnessCenter](https://www.paypal.me/CWellnessCenter)

Donate Through  
Facebook

[Click Here to Donate on](#)

[Facebook](#)

Donations help  
support:

-Programs that keep  
people safe and inde-  
pendent at home

-Employment Services

-Accessible  
Transportation

-Durable Medical  
Equipment

-Independent Living  
Skills Classes

- Fitness Center &  
More!

About Chasidy: Chasidy Renne joined Access II as Payroll Specialist on May 3rd. She was raised in Gallatin, and graduated from Gallatin High School. She has three children, and she enjoys spending time with her kids and family. She says she looks forward to serving our community and surrounding areas.

## Partnerships Benefit the Community

When organizations come together and form partnerships, amazing things can happen. Access II was able to donate this electric scooter to Wood Marshall, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gallatin, thanks to a donation from Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, MO.

Wood sincerely appreciated the donation and it is our hope that this scooter helps Wood get around a little easier in the community, at home, and work. The nursing home has been able to donate several pieces of equipment and adaptive furniture over the past several months that Access II has been able to match with people who really need them.



*Pictured above: Wood Marshall poses with his electric scooter.*

If you are in need of durable medical equipment, or if you have equipment that is in good working order and you are looking for a place to donate the items, please contact Ayrton Wilson at 660-663-2423 ext.230.

## Access II Hosts Summer Fishing Tournament



Pictured Above: Gaige Blanton/Beau Blanton



Pictured Above: Terry Baker/Jeremy Fuston



Pictured Above: Heather/Donnie Edwards



*Pictured above: Boats begin loading at Harrison County Lake*

Access II raised \$480 during the Summer Fishing Tournament Sunday, June, 6 at Harrison County Lake. Eleven teams came out to raise money for Access II, a non-profit agency that provides services to people with disabilities and the elderly in Northwest Missouri.

Winners from the tournament included:

- First Place Bass: Gaige Blanton/Beau Blanton - 16.63 lbs;
- Second Place Bass- Terry Baker/Jeremy Fuston- 11.98 lbs;
- Third Place Bass- Donnie Edwards/Heather Edwards – 11.21 lbs;
- "Big Bass" Winner- Gaige Blanton/Beau Blanton- Blanton 5.99 lbs.

First Place and "Big Bass" winners received cash prizes and additional winners received donated items from community businesses and organizations. Sponsors for this event included Timberwolf Construction of Pattonsburg, Shadowfax, and TLC Inc., of Albany, the Kansas City Royals, Anderson Ford of St. Joseph, Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee, and Kum & Go, all of Bethany.

Access II typically hosts two fishing tournaments a year with all proceeds benefiting programs that support and empower people with disabilities.

## Access II Awards Local Students with Ed Grimes Scholarship

Access II has Durable Medical Equipment for consumers and community members in need.



- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Shower Benches
- Commodes
- Scooters and more

Please call  
660-663-2423 ext. 221  
to schedule an  
appointment if you

Have  
equipment to  
donate?

We accept dona-  
tions of gently used  
equipment.

We do not accept  
hospital beds or  
broken equipment.

If you have equip-  
ment to donate  
please call Ayrn at  
660-663-2423 ext.  
230

Access II was able to award two local student's with \$500 scholarships to use next year toward their school expenses. Access II awarded Johnna Tadlock, a senior at Gallatin R-V school with the Ed Grimes Scholarship. Johnna will be attending North Central Missouri College next Fall.



*Pictured above: Johnna Tadlock and Jessica Adkins pose with Johnna's Ed Grimes Award certificate.*

Access II was also able to award an additional scholarship this year to Dakota Doolittle. Dakota is a Senior at Tri County R-VII High School in Jamesport. Dakota will be attending Grand River Technical School next Fall.



*Pictured above: Ayrn Wilson and Dakota Doolittle pose with Dakota's Ed Grimes Award certificate.*

**About The Scholarship:** Each year Access II awards the Ed "Eddie" Grimes Scholarship to a student with a disability that will be continuing their education after high school. At the age of 38, Eddie Grimes enrolled in college and graduated from North Central Missouri College in 1992.

Eddie understood the difficulties of everyday life as a person with a disability. Diagnosed with osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, and emphysema, he got around using a wheelchair and oxygen. Ed became a teacher for an Adult Education Center where he helped others obtain their GED's, gain computer skills & knowledge, to live more independently.



Have a running car and not sure what to do with it?

Donate it to us!

Access II is looking for running vehicles to assist people with disabilities in gaining independence through employment!

All donations are tax-deductible! Please contact Heather at 660-663-6101 if you're able to help!

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This magnet would look great on your refrigerator. We have some available at the office.



## Access II's Vans Make Camp Memorable



*Pictured above: Campers are loading into Access II's accessible van after swimming.*

Each year Access II reserves and loans two accessible vans to Camp Rainbow, in Trenton, MO. The vans allow campers with physical disabilities to experience and enjoy all that camp has to offer.

**From Stacie Pauls - Board Member / Historian / Photographer / Public Relations for Camp Rainbow** - "We want to give another shout out to a neighboring business. Thank you to [Access II](#) out of Gallatin, Missouri for loaning us two passenger vans to help us transport our campers to and from the lake. We have several campers that use wheelchairs or walkers and have a hard time getting in and out of regular vehicles without some kind of assistance. These vans have wheelchair lifts and are able to hold multiple people and safely transport our friends to the lake to swim, paddle boat, canoe, and simply hang out with their friends. We are extremely thankful for Access II partnering with Camp Rainbow. Without them, some of our campers would not be able to experience all that camp has to offer them."- Courtesy Camp Rainbow Facebook Page

## 6 Ways to Support Access II Without Making a Monetary Donation

- Share our Facebook posts
- Donate your time, talent, or equipment
- Encourage People first Language
- Share our mission and tell others about what we do
- Support the success and independence of people with disabilities
- If you know someone who could use our services tell them to call us.

## Access II Celebrates Nurses Week



*Pictured above: Samantha Flint- L.P.N./In-Home Director, Charla Ratliff-R.N., Maggie Farrell-C.N.A./Administrative Assistant pose with cookies and goodie bags.*

Access II celebrated National Nurses week by providing our 3 nurses, Samantha Flint, Charla Ratliff, and Maggie Farrell with goodie bags, cookies, and a taco bar for lunch. Nurses week is celebrated each year starting May 6th through May 12th, ending on Florence Nightingale's birthday, who is considered the founder of modern nursing.

Our nurses work hard each and every day to provide care to our consumers, and ensure our In-Home program runs smoothly. Our nurses provide medication set ups, diabetic nail care, respite care, homemaker chores and much more to our consumers. Our nurses and in-home aides work inside our consumer's homes allowing them to remain independent and safe while being in the least restrictive environment. This allows our consumers an increased level of independence and for them to remain a part of the communities they love. We appreciate our nurses and the work they do to care for our consumers.



### Online Shopping?

Please consider using Amazon Smile, which will donate a portion of your sales to Access II.

All you have to do is shop!

Go to Amazon Smile and search Access II as the agency you are supporting!

## Access II's Transportation Program

Please call our office at 660-663-2423 to reserve one of our wheel chair lift equipped vans. Vans are loaned on a short term basis for anyone in the community who is in need of a van with a lift. Please call and speak with Ayrn at ext. 230 for more information.

## Rural RTC is Looking for People to Share Their Stories

**Are you a rural person with a disability who receives personal assistance services in your home?**

**We want to hear your story!**

We are currently conducting a study on rural personal assistance services and are looking for people to be interviewed over the phone or via video chat.

We want to learn about your disability, the types of personal assistance services you receive, what your workers are like, how you train them, and about your general community and health experiences.

If you decide to participate in this project, you will:

- Complete a one-on-one interview, which will last about 1 hour
- Receive \$30 for your time

Contact **Rayna Sage** to sign up!

Email: [ruralPAS@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ruralPAS@mso.umt.edu)

Phone: **406-243-5233**



Participating in research is voluntary. It won't affect your services if you decide not to call about the study or decide not to participate.

Sincerely,

**The Rural Personal Assistance Services Project Team**



This research is supported by grant #90RTCP0002-01-00 from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. The opinions expressed reflect those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the funding agency.

The University of Montana IRB	
Expiration Date	None
Date Approved	1-16-2021
Chair/Admin	AKEN

## Upcoming Events and Office Closings:

Executive Director:  
Heather Swymeler

Financial Director:  
Amber Wells

Marketing &  
Development Director:  
Jessica Adkins

LPN: Samantha Flint

CDS Case Manager:  
Jen Miller

Employment  
Specialist: Vladimir  
Arutyunyan

In-Home Scheduling  
Coordinator: Deena  
McCallon

Financial Assistant:  
Ashley Chambers

Payroll Specialist:  
Chasidy Renne

Administrative  
Assistant:  
Ayron Wilson

Administrative  
Assistant/CNA:  
Maggie Farrell

Contract RN: Charla  
Ratliff

- September 6th: Labor Day– Office Closed
- October 11th: Columbus Day– Office Closed
- November 11th: Veteran's Day– Office Closed
- November 25th: Thanksgiving– Office Closed
- November 26th: Cold Turkey Day– Office Closed
- December 25th: Dec 31st-Christmas Day/Holiday

Break-Office closed

- Jan 1st: New Years Day– Office Closed