# St. Wheelchair America 2003 From Sea to Shining Sea



July 30 to August 4, 2002 Rockville, Maryland

#### **STATE OF MARYLAND**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR







Dear Ms. Wheelchair America 2003 Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the great State of Maryland for the 30th Annual Ms. Wheelchair America Program. I am pleased that Maryland is host to this event, thanks to the hard work of all those involved. As you embark on your life's journey, you will carry with you all your accomplishments, including your participation in this event.

The Ms. Wheelchair America Program is an excellent opportunity to bring together young women from across the nation to learn from each other and engage in a positive competitive environment based on those attributes from within one's heart and soul. In addition, this event puts you in a unique position to advocate on behalf of all those with disabilities. The 2003 Ms. Wheelchair America Program will provide each of you with new experiences and new friends from whom you can learn and grow. Your platform presentations will be important tools in the efforts to break down barriers and educate all of us.

My very best wishes for a wonderful and enjoyable time while visiting Maryland as a participant in the 30th Annual Ms. Wheelchair America Program. I invite you to come back soon and often.

Sincerely,

Parris N. Glendening

Pai N. Flend

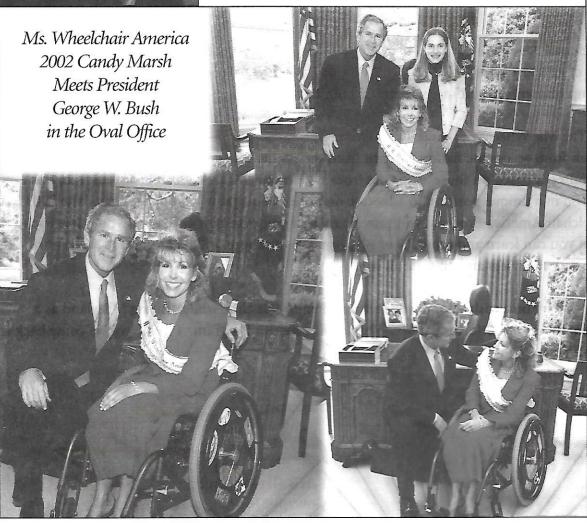
Governor



# to Candy Marsh Ms. Wheelchair America 2002

With our compliments, Phil and Betty Watson

For her wonderful leadership and friendship





Pat O'Bryant, Executive Director KENTUCKY

**Gail McKoon**, President *GEORGIA* 

**Robert Watson,** Vice President MARYLAND

Judy Hoit, Secretary
IOWA

Vicki Kerkvliet, Treasurer SOUTH DAKOTA

August 3, 2002

To: Delegates, Companions, State Coordinators, Judges, Escorts, Sponsors, Volunteers, Family Members, Friends, and Other Supporters

From: Gail McKoon, President

On behalf of the Ms. Wheelchair America Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to MWA'03 and to one of the best cities in the world, Rockville, Maryland!

Our thanks to Robert Watson and his wonderful volunteer staff for hosting this magnificent event and for all the love and hard work they have put into making us all feel welcome. I believe this program will be one of the best we have ever had.

Our thanks also to each State Coordinator for the tremendous job you have done this year. Putting a state program together is no small task and we appreciate your loyalty and your sense of commitment. We hope we will be working with you again next year as you "grow" your program.

If you are an Independent Delegate, we sincerely thank you for accepting the challenge of starting a program in your state next year. We are excited that we will be working with you as you set out on this wonderful adventure. When you leave here tomorrow, you will leave as a "State Coordinator," ready to begin work on your very first state program!

Thank you, Candy Marsh. You have been a dynamic titleholder! We think you have done much to "boost" the image of Ms. Wheelchair America. Good luck to you in your future. We hope you will always cherish the memories of traveling around our great country as Ms. Wheelchair America 2002.

It is not possible to list all the individuals who have helped this program during this year and in past years, but we want you all to know that we are so grateful to those who have helped us achieve the success we enjoy today. We are truly appreciative of your financial assistance, your volunteer hours, your wise counsel, and your support of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate to express our feelings.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the MWA Board of Directors. It has truly been my pleasure to work with the finest group of people I know. My sincere thanks to Pat O'Bryant, Robert Watson, Judy Hoit, and Vicki Kerkvliet, each of whom is very special to me — and to the Ms. Wheelchair America Program.

And now, please join us as we spotlight America's finest women — OUR DELEGATES — who come from all across this great nation, "From Sea to Shining Sea!"





DateAble, Inc. Executive Director Robert S. Watson 301-657-DATE (3283)

DateAble International

Making Connections

Image Awards

Ms. Wheelchair Maryland

Mentor Initiative

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Adam Lloyd
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Ellen Stovall
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DateAble, Inc. is a private non-profit organization

Member of the Better Business Bureau Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome everyone to the great state of Maryland where within a few hours you can go from the mountain tops of western Maryland to the sandy shores of the Atlantic to the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. It is our honor to host the 2003 Ms. Wheelchair America gala and to also celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this great organization.

Many people have worked very hard to make this week a special and memorable one. Starting with the Contestant Orientation on Tuesday through Fun Day and Political Night, to our own spin on New Year's Eve to the Grand Gala evening, right down to the Queen's Breakfast on Sunday morning, it is our sincere hope that you enjoy yourself and this wonderful region.

We have devised a unique process for each titleholder to get to know each other beyond the basic greetings of 'hello' and 'goodbye'. Every titleholder will receive a *passport* for their week in Maryland. The passport will not only allow the titleholders admission into every event but it also allows them to gather interesting and whimsical information about each other.

This year's event theme is *From Sea to Shining Sea* to capture the beauty and diversity of our beautiful national landscape as well as our titleholders. From Maryland and North Carolina on the east coast, to Indiana and Wisconsin in the heartland, to Arizona and California in the west, this is truly a spectacular event that draws dynamic women from sea to shining sea and even in between. It is an impressive vision that these dynamic women choose to gather and share their accomplishments and achievements; we are merely witnesses to their celebration. As women from varied backgrounds, lifestyles, and even landscapes unite to empower each other, we all grow stronger in our own relationships and situations.

Thank you so very much for sharing your time and talents with us. Your presence is a treasure that sustains us until we meet again.

Fondly,

Robert S. Watson

Host State Coordinator



#### Ms. Wheelchair America Board of Directors

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Gail McKoon

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Robert Watson

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Vicki Kerkvliet

Secretary

**Judy Hoit** 

**Executive Director** 

Pat O'Bryant

#### Ms. Wheelchair America State Coordinators

Alabama **Cherry Patton** 

Nebraska Cathy Carver Hayes **Virginia** Debra Willis

**Arkansas** Ida Esh't

New Jersey

Wayne Sayle

California

**David Syms** 

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Ruthee Goldkorn

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Jeri Wasco

Colorado

Denise DiNoto

Wisconsin Heidi Evans

Anna Johnson

North Carolina Crystal Upton

Wyoming

Florida

Stacy Hubbard

Darlene Trejo-Cain

Lynn Naves

Ohio

Utah Ken Reid

Georgia Gail McKoon Pennsylvania Kara Aiella

**Independent Delegates** 

Illinois

Kristy Traynor

South Carolina Renee Walsh

Arkansas Vicky Allen

Indiana

Dr. Jean McCutchan

South Dakota Vicki Kerkvliet Mississippi Nicki Reese

lowa

Judy Hoit

**Texas** 

Oklahoma Kristen Garrett

Cherry Patton Shannon Folger •

Maryland

Robert Watson



#### Ms. Wheelchair America 2003 Contestant Schedule of Events Tuesday, July 30, 2002 to Sunday, August 4, 2002 Doubletree Hotel, Rockville, Maryland

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
July 30	July 31	August 1	August 2	August 3	August 4
Hospitality Suite	Hospitality Suite	Hospitality Suite	Hospitality Suite	Hospitality Suite	
2pm-6pm	7am-5pm	7am-5pm	7am-5pm	7am-3pm	
Twinbrook	Twinbrook	Twinbrook	Twinbrook	Twinbrook	
	Continental	Continental	Continental	Continental	9:30am
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Queen's Breakfas
	7am-9am	7am-9am	7am-9am	7am-9am	Plaza Ballroom
	Twinbrook	Twinbrook	Twinbrook	Twinbrook	
		8am	8am	Rehearsal	
Arrival Day	Fun Day to	First Workshop	Third Workshop	Plaza Ballroom	01 1 0
		Regency	Regency	T WILL DUM COM	Check-Out
	Washington,	VASAP	Beyond Beauty		
	DC	VIIOIII	beyond beauty		
Registration and	8am	8am First	8am Third		
distribution of	Meet in front lobby	Judging Session	Judging Session		
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<b>PassPOT</b> 15	1st Half to FDR &	77113011	77113011		
	Mall / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half to				
	Union Station				
	12pm Lunch	12:30pm Lunch	12.20 I	   T	
	together	12.50piii Luncii	12:30pm Lunch	Lunch on your	
		D1 D -11	DI D II	own	
	Union Station	Plaza Ballroom	Plaza Ballroom		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Half to Union	1:30pm Second	1:30pm Fourth	Free time	
	Station / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half to	Workshop	Workshop Regency		
	FDR & Mall	Regency	ADA & You		
		Disability Culture			
		1:30pm Second	1:30pm Fourth	Hairdressers and	
		Judging Session	Judging Session	Make-Up Stylists	
		Wilson	Wilson		
		3:30pm Break	3:30pm Break		
		3:45pm Resume	3:45pm Resume	5:30pm Cocktails	
6:30pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	
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			100		
Welcome Dinner	Nautical Theme	Political Theme	Happy New Year	Gala Dinner	
	Dinner	Dinner	Theme Dinner	Plaza Ballroom	
Plaza Ballroom	Patio Outside	Plaza Ballroom	Plaza Ballroom	1 mzn Daniooni	
8pm	7:45pm	I MAN DAM OUT	Platform Speeches		
Contestant	State Gift Exchange		1 latioilii speedies		
Orientation	State Ont Exchange				
Plaza Ballroom	Plaza Ballroom		Plaza Ballroom		
Ріага Бантоот			FIUZU DUIITOOM		
	7:45pm				
	Judges Orientation				
	Wilson				

# Ms. Wheelchair America Presents



Vote for your favorite Ms. Wheelchair America Contestant

\$1.00 per vote

Vote as many times as you wish throughout the course of the pageant week. Please cast your votes at the information desk located in the Gazebo.

#### Ms. Wheelchair America 2002-2003 Contestant Biographies



#### Arizona Vicky Allen



Vicky lives in Chandler with her husband and two children. Vicky is an incomplete quadriplegic due to a spinal cord injury. She is currently a stay at home mom. Vicky was previously employed as a travel consultant in Hawaii where she assisted people with disabilities in obtaining hotel, van, and activity reservations. She has been involved with the Majors Board for Persons with Disabilities through public speaking engagements to create awareness regarding prohibited parking in access lanes and disabled parking areas. Vicky describes herself as compassionate, understanding, giving, and having "a heart for the Lord."

#### California Jennifer Lynn Marie MacMonagle

Jennifer lives in South Lake Tahoe with her parents and daughter. Jennifer is a paraplegic as a result of a car accident caused by a drunk driver. She is a spokesperson for the Ford Motor Company Mobility Program and is a volunteer with Disabled Sports USA where she teaches disabled individuals how to water ski along with other sports. Jennifer advocates for an awareness of the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Jennifer describes herself as spontaneous, open-minded, responsible, considerate, and passionate.





Colorado Jodi Washnock

Jodi lives in Denver with her roommate. Jodi sustained a spinal cord injury in March of 1999 as a result of an automobile accident. She is the founder and director of The Magic Dance Foundation, and is also on the Board of Directors for the Patrick Ireland Foundation (a Columbine student). Jodi volunteers with Teller Elementary, Easter Seals Colorado, St. John's Cathedral, and Congress Park Neighbors. Jodi describes herself as positive, dynamic, intelligent, ambitious, and children-oriented.

Florida Colleen Macort

Colleen lives in Jensen Beach with her roommates and boyfriend. Colleen has partial paralysis on her lower extremities as a result of being born with a tumor on her spine. Colleen is a liaison between doctors and Medicare with Liberty Medical Supply. She is a volunteer with the Mayor's Feed the Hungry Program as well as other charities. Colleen has worked one-on-one with individuals who have just been released from prison. She assisted them in setting goals, obtaining clothing, and jobs. Colleen describes herself as determined, outgoing, spunky, dependable, and a survivor.



#### Georgia Mia Henson

Mia lives in Columbus with a friend. Mia has cerebral palsy from birth. She is a babysitter for family and friends. Mia is a member of Sixteen Wheelers Square Dance Club and Freedom for Handicaps where she is secretary for both groups. She advocates making apartment houses accessible for people with disabilities. Mia describes herself as honest, positive, outgoing, daring, and high-spirited.





Illinois Theresa Temborius

Theresa lives independently in Chillicothe. Theresa is a paraplegic as a result of a sledding accident in December of 2000. She has been a registered nurse for 20 years and looks forward to returning to the surgical department this summer. Theresa was a traveling nurse for four years, working bi-coastally in all types of intensive care units. She was instrumental in obtaining a pool chair lift at the local community center. She volunteers with a Kindergarten class twice a month to help them understand people with disabilities. Theresa describes herself as independent, assertive, adventurous, lighthearted, and creative.

#### Indiana Sylvia Jackson

Sylvia lives independently in Goshen. Sylvia has degenerative osteo-arthritis with neurospinal degeneration. She currently works as a certified health unit coordinator and has close to 30 years of medical experience in the field of health and disability advocacy. Sylvia is co-chair of the Disability Resource Network and is a former member of the Elkhart County Mental Health Alliance. She also spearheaded meetings and transportation committees for public bus transportation in her community. Sylvia describes herself as understanding, supportive, outgoing, and having a sense of humor.





Iowa Ruth Evans

Ruth lives independently in Des Moines. Ruth is a quadriplegic as a result of a motor vehicle accident in July of 1972. She is a licensed certified rehabilitation counselor. Ruth works as a caseworker and staff assistant volunteer in Senator Tom Harkin's office where she works case files for constituents. She is also the current president of the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living. Ruth describes herself as persistent, patient, passionate, disciplined, and dedicated.

#### Kentucky Bethaney Adams

Bethaney lives in Murray with her roommates. Bethaney has spina bifida. She will graduate in December 2002 from Murray State University with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Therapeutic Recreation with a minor in Special Education. Bethaney works as a student teacher's aide and student minister at her church. She is a volunteer with the Western Kentucky Special Olympics, Shared Care Adult Day Care, and the Murray Relay for Life. Bethaney describes herself as outgoing, adventurous, involved, independent, and compassionate.



#### Maryland Nadia Massuda



Nadia lives independently in Baltimore. Nadia was diagnosed with polio in early childhood. She is a certified public accountant and auditor with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Nadia volunteers with a group which serves dinner to residents of the local Ronald McDonald House. She also volunteers with the Maryland Food Bank and was the president for ten years of a singles social group. Nadia describes herself as honest, compassionate, determined, giving, and fun.

#### Mississippi Nikki Reese

Nikki lives in Meridian with her parents. Nikki was diagnosed with a muscle disease in 1996. She works as a news producer where she arranges a one-half hour news and interview television show. Nikki has volunteered at the annual Children First events and Christmas parties for underprivileged children. Nikki describes herself as spiritual, intelligent, loyal, loving, and considerate.



#### Missouri Jennifer Blakovich



Jennifer lives in St. Robert with her parents and brother. Jennifer sustained a complete spinal cord injury as a result of a car accident in December of 1996. She is a full-time student working on completing her Bachelors of Science in Computer Information Systems. Jennifer volunteers as with a local women's and children's shelter, the Joshua Richards Honor Scholarship Fund, and the Holiday Fest for Columbia College. Jennifer describes herself as determined, outgoing, passionate, honest, and dependable.

Nebraska Jeanette Banahan

Jeanette lives independently in Omaha. Jeanette has spina bifida. She works as an independent living advisor and training coordinator at the Center for Independent Living where she assists in developing plans that will promote the independence of disabled clients. Jeanette volunteers on a crisis telephone line and at a women's center. She is also a member on the Board of Directors of the Spina Bifida Association of Nebraska. Jeanette describes herself as friendly, tenacious, perceptive, comforting, and articulate.





#### New York Cynthia Hill

Cindy lives in Delmar with her husband and three children. Cindy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1988. She works as the director of business development for Wellness Preventative Healthcare Products. Cindy is a state committee member for the New York Independence Party, PTA President at Elsmere Elementary School, and accessibility advocate for the School Board and Town Planning Board. She was instrumental in having elevators installed her community town hall and post office buildings. Cindy describes herself as stubborn, creative, caring, defiant, and persevering.

#### North Carolina Kimberly Floyd

Kimberly lives independently in High Point. Kimberly sustained a cervical spinal cord injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident in June of 1992. She works as a rating specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Winston-Salem. Kimberly will complete her Masters Degree in Public Affairs in July 2002. Kimberly volunteered with the Advocacy Project for People with Disabilities where she assisted consumers with accessing affordable and accessible housing. Kimberly describes herself as kind, fun, outgoing, empathetic, and as one who encourages others.





Ohio Stacy James

Stacy lives in Dublin with her mother. Stacy is an incomplete quadriplegic as a result of a driving accident in June of 1991. She works as a public communicator (speaker and writer) for Finish Line Ministries. Stacy has volunteered with Creative Living, raised money for TAASC adapted sports program, and has counseled individuals with disabilities. Stacy describes herself as positive, ambitious, courageous, persevering, and faith-full.



Oklahoma Kristen Garrett

Kristen lives in Oklahoma City with her parents. Kristen was born with a rare congenital disease that affected the development of her legs. She works as an admissions clerk for tours at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Kristen has coordinated fund-raisers for Children's Medical Research with the Children's Hospital of Oklahoma. She also has volunteered extensively with other children's charities located in Oklahoma. Instead describes herself as headstrong, courageous, extremely ambitious, intellectual, and adependent.





#### Pennsylvania Leona Gutherman

Leona lives in Levittown with her husband and four children. Leona is an incomplete quadriplegic as a result of a spinal cord injury sustained in 1983. Leona works as a business analyst with Triversity, Inc. and is taking classes to earn her Masters Degree in Technology Management. She volunteers at a rehabilitation center as a mentor for their Spinal Cord Injury Peer Group, and her love of animals got her involved with fostering and training puppies to work as future service dogs Leona is also a member of her town's Disabled Person's Advisory Board. Leona describes herself as courageous, inspirational, charismatic, congenial, and very devoted.

#### South Carolina Michele Baumgardner

Michele lives in Little River with her husband and son. Michele is a paraplegic as a result of a spinal cord injury in 1987. She works as a free lance writer where she currently works as a public relations writer for Myrtle Beach Tours, Incorporated. She is a volunteer with her church where she runs a food and clothing pantry, the Grand Strand Miracle League. She is also involved with her community's "Sister City" program. Michele describes herself as determined, compassionate, self-motivated, introspective, and outgoing.





South Dakota Kati Seymour

Kati lives in Murdo with her parents. Kati has cerebral palsy as a result of a premature birth. She works as a team leader in the Youth Leadership Forum and is also a published poet. She is a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Parent Connection Family Service Day, Adopt-a-Highway program, Adopt-a-Senior Program, as well as many other organizations. Kati describes herself as tenacious, determined, committed, gregarious, and unique.

#### Tennessee Molly King

Molly lives independently in Atioch. Molly is an incomplete quadriplegic as a result of an automobile accident in March of 1996. She works as a civil engineer where she assists in the design of highways for the State of Tennessee. She is a volunteer with the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Individuals with Disabilities and the Easter Seals fishing tournament. She is also a peer counselor at the rehabilitation hospital where she was a patient. Molly describes herself as independent, determined, compassionate, persistent, and a quality individual.





Texas Regina Blye



Regina lives independently in Amarillo. Regina is a quadriplegic as a result of a firearm incident when she was ten years-old. Regina works as a news producer for the ABC affiliate, Pronews Seven, where she writes and creates the morning news. She volunteers for the Tobacco Free Amarillo of the American Cancer Society and is a board member for the Life Run Center for Independent Living. Regina describes herself as a comedian, a good listener, someone with integrity, caring, and energetic.

#### Virginia Deborah Johnson

Debbie lives independently in Lynchburg. Debbie has cerebral palsy from birth. She works as a paralegal writing wills and living wills for people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income families. Debbie manages a mentoring program in her church that matches young women with more mature women. She gives seminars on welcoming people with disabilities to churches and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Lynchburg Center for Independent Living. Debbie describes herself as classy, a trailblazer, creative, comical, and having integrity.





Washington, DC Brunilda Sandoval

Brunilda lives in the District of Columbia with her three daughters. Brunilda volunteers with the AARP Day Program, Kids Online and AmeriCorps Vista. She is currently studying Visual Communications at the Gibbs School in Washington, DC. Brunilda is a published poet in the International Library of Poetry and has been nominated for several Poet Society awards. Brunilda describes herself as determined, compassionate, resourceful, reliable, and focused.

#### Wisconsin Catherine Gugala

Catherine lives in Menasha with her four year-old son. A blood clot on her spine caused paralysis when she was five years-old. Catherine has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Communicative Disorders from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point and is working toward her Masters Degree in Speech Pathology. Catherine's active enables her to advocate on disability issues whether visiting the elderly who live to advocate, working out at the gym, or wheeling around on campus. Catherine herself as confident, knowledgeable, creative, spiritual, and motivated.



#### Former Ms. Wheelchair America Titleholders

Candy Marsh — Colorado
Nicki Ard — South Carolina
Tracy Charlton-O'Connor — Wisconsin
Terri Cecil — Kentucky
Elaine Stefanowicz — Washington
Amy Baxter-Ley — Texas
Wendy Petzold — Wisconsin
Dawn Blodgett — California
Kim Mensi — Alabama
Deanna Green-Van Hook — Texas



Mercedes Rodriques-Fowler — Florida Kathy Garcia-Farnsworth — Utah Jewell Massey — Georgia Peggy Simpson — Alabama Sandra Honbaier — North Carolina

Donna Cline — Nevada

Lori Cottam — Utah

Gaynell Colburn — Maryland

Barbara Crozier — Alabama

Marian Schooling-Vessells — Maryland

Vivian Thompson — Massachusetts

Nancy Pudvin — Georgia

Marge Chmielewski — Michigan

Margie Sloan — Georgia

Beverly Chapman — Florida

Dixie Lee Etheridge — Mississippi

Kathy Smith-Tiley — Alabama

Janie Robinson — Texas

The Ms. Wheelchair America program would like to recognize those who have passed away since last year's pageant.

Nicki Ard — Ms. Wheelchair America 2001 Krista Samide-Barnes — Ms. Wheelchair Indiana 2001 Lisa Muscarella — Past Vice President of MWA, Former State Coordinator for Florida, Host State Coordinator in 2000

#### Judging Criteria Ms. Wheelchair America

The Ms. Wheelchair America judging is based upon criteria established by the Board of Directors of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program.

#### Accomplishment

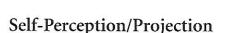
1. Personal achievements/accomplishments since onset of disability only in the areas of:

Academic Vocational Personal

2. Adjustments to disability

#### Communication Skills

- 1. Ability to deal with media, peers, civic groups, etc.
- 2. Public relations skills
- 3. Advocacy for persons with disabilities
- 4. Self-confidence/motivation/initiative/creativity



- \*\*Poise/demeanor
- \*\*Appropriate attire/personal presentation
- \*\*Ms. Wheelchair America *is not a beauty contest* and therefore this is not license to choose the most attractive entrant. Instead, the items in this category are simply to express a desire to have a pleasing appearance capable of obtaining favorable responses from any audience before which Ms. Wheelchair America would appear.



#### **Judges**



Dawn Blodgett — Head Judge — Dawn lives in LaQuinta, California with her Golden Retriever, "Newman." Dawn is an accomplished motivational speaker who has traveled extensively, speaking at numerous colleges and universities around the country, delivering a presentation entitled "Face Your Fears and Follow Your Passions." In 1993 Dawn had the honor of being crowned Ms. Wheelchair America. Dawn is currently a student enrolled in the Chemical Dependency Counseling program at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, California. Dawn is an experienced judge in both state and national wheelchair pageants. Dawn believes the only true disability is attitude. Her favorite expression and her motto are: "Deal with it!"

Russ Holt — Born in Washington, D.C in 1968 Russ grew up in Potomac, Maryland and now lives in the small Montgomery County, Maryland town of Boyds. Russ is a 1994 graduate of American University with a B.A in Sociology, has a long history of being active in the Maryland/DC/Virginia community. Partially paralyzed in a 1986 auto accident, he has become a well known advocate for people with disabilities. Russ is currently a peer counselor with the Endependence Center of Northern Virginia. In 1997 Russ was featured in a Dateline NBC episode entitled, "No Way In". July of 2000 marked the official launch of Russ' DisabilityGuide.org, a website devoted to reviewing the accessibility of restaurants and bars in the DC metropolitan area.





Stanley E. Keene — Stan is married with three children and lives in Columbus, Georgia. Stan retired last December 31 as the Executive Director of the Columbus, Buena Vista, Ellaville, and Harris county Housing Authorities. He remains active on many boards of professional and civic/cultural organizations. Stan received his B.S. in Public Administration from Mississippi State University. He holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from Georgia Tech. Stan was a key player in the Pilot Transitional Living Program and an advocate for accessible housing.

Donnie Myers — Donnie has a Masters of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts from Iowa State University and his background is working with the media and corporate communications. Donnie is Marketing Director of The Link located in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Donnie has been involved with the Ms. Wheelchair America program for the past three years. In his position with The Link, Donnie has assisted MWA state delegates and board members in their media relations efforts. In addition, Donnie judged the 2001 Ms. Wheelchair Iowa program.





Jesse Thomas III — Jesse is married with two children. Jesse is an active participant in helping the physically disabled. As the founder and owner of Thomas Medical Equipment, founded in September 2000, and the founder and owner of the Spherical Contracting Company, LLC, founded in January 2002, Jesse dedicates his efforts to improve the lives of those with physical needs. Fourteen years ago Jesse was involved in a motorcycle accident and had a right below-the-knee amputation. Since that time he has worked with many organizations which strive to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Linda Jones — Judge Coordinator — Linda has been the Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor for the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department since her graduation from Columbus College in 1985. Linda is a member and past officer of the Columbus Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities Executive/Advisory Board, a member and volunteer of the Ms .Wheelchair Georgia Board of Directors (she was presented the President's Award this year), and was on the Planning Committee for the Ms. Wheelchair America Program in 1994 and 1996 when it was held in Georgia.



# MANTED

# Manquer de! Adjetivo!

No matter how you say it, the Ms. Wheelchair America organization is missing contestants from the following states:

Alabama

Alaska

Arkansas

Connecticut

Delaware

Hawaii

Idaho

Kansas

Louisiana

Maine

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Montana

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

North Dakota

Oregon

Rhode Island

Utah

Vermont

Washington

West Virginia

Wyoming

Please contact a member of the Board of Directors, if you know of dynamic women in any of the states who would qualify for the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant.

### Sponsors List

ARIZONA - Vicky Allen: Scott Allen, Henry and Carmel Burmeister, Reality Executives, Jane Gladden, Lloyd O'Dell, Albertsons

CALIFORNIA – Jennifer MacMonagle: Engine Dynamics Co., Alexa Atkinson, Jim and Linda MacMonagle, Californians for Disability Rights (Chris Elms, President), Susan Barnhill

COLORADO – Jodi Washnock: Lolla Design, Inc., Hounds on the Hill, Wildflowers on Madison, The Magic Dance Foundation, The Patrick Ireland Foundation, Susan E. Sanders, Magistrate

FLORIDA – Colleen Macort: Hoveround Personal Mobility Vehicles, Gulfstream Lures, Stanley Steamer, Marie Chisolm, Dorothy Ott, Joe Johnson IV, Tom and Donna Godshall, Jr., Bob Lovejoy and "The Golfman" Golf Shop, AMF Bradenton Lanes, Oldies 108 – Lance Hubschmitt, Lynn Simmons, Liberator Medical Supply

GEORGIA – Mia Henson: Keebler, American Legion Auxiliary Post #65, MRS Homecare, Country's Barbeque, Columbus Bank and Trust Company, Mail Room, Camp ASCCA, Freedom for Handicaps, William Denamur, Sixteen Wheelers, Kathy LaFleur, Robert LaFleur, Butch, Connie and Roy Rowcliff, Mike and Rhonda Whitlock, Tracy and Linda Hall, Kim Johnson, David Lewis, Tommy Grier, Beth Stine

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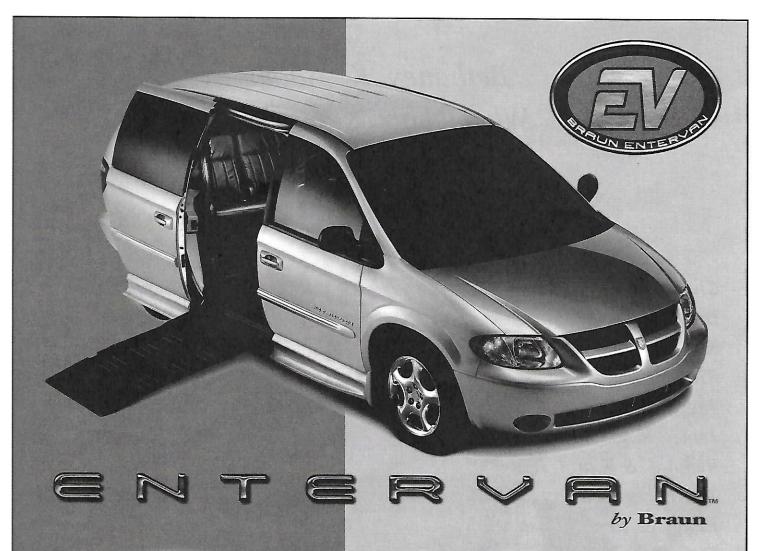
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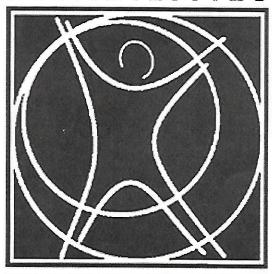
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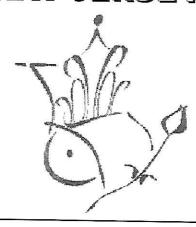
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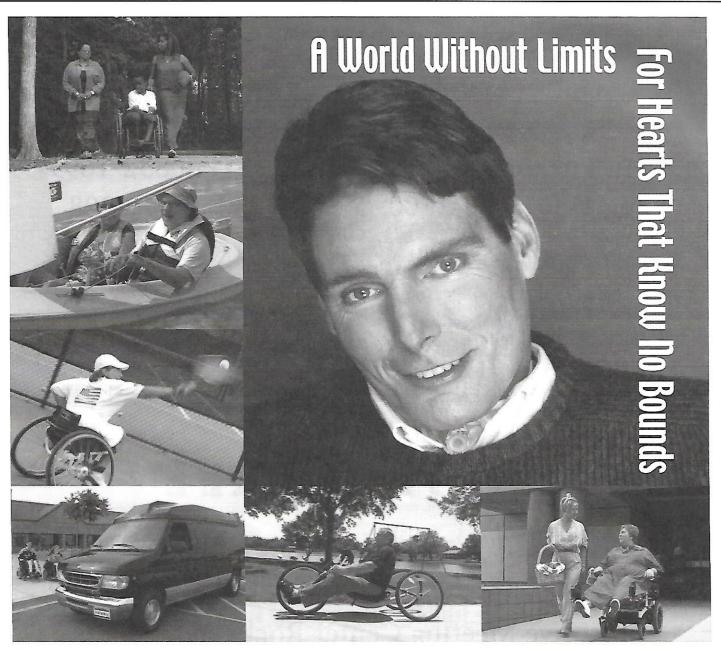


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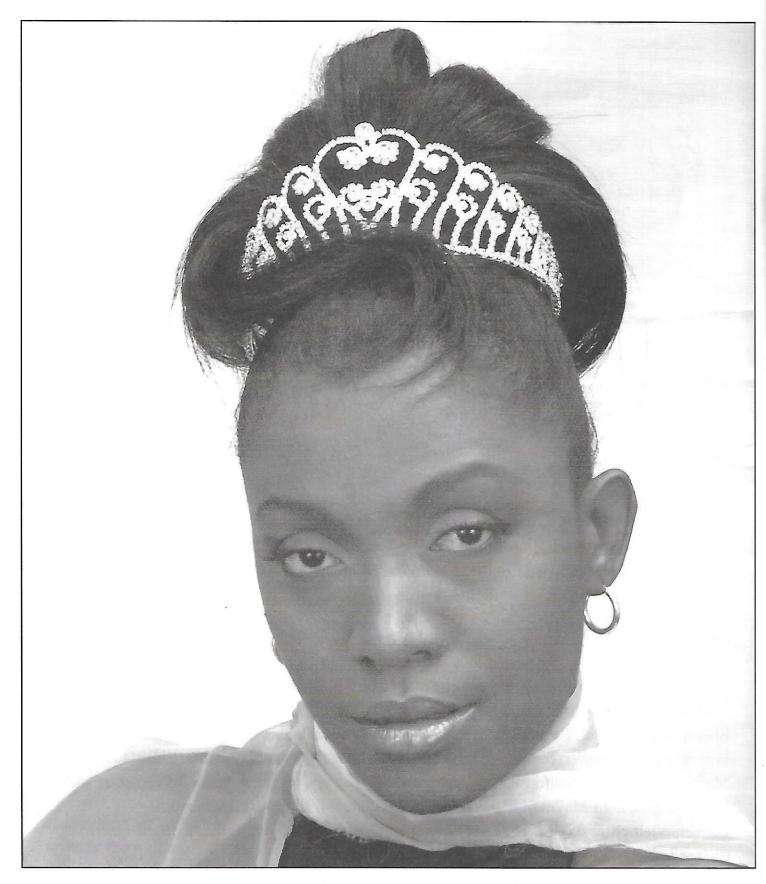
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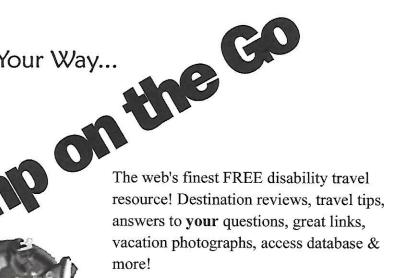
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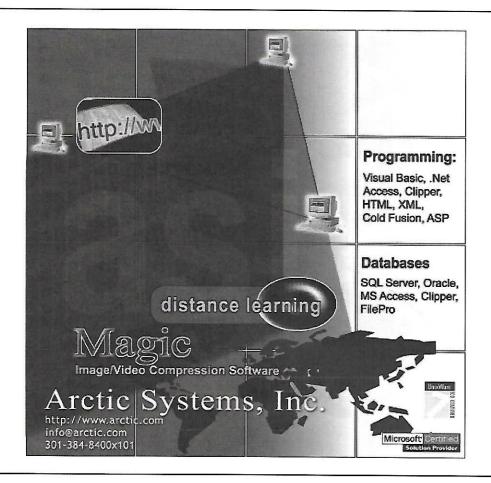
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DateAble, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides dating and social opportunities for people with and without disabilities.

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