

Ms. Wheelchair AMERICA 2015



LEADERSHIP FORUM AND PAGEANT
AUGUST 4-10, 2014 LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
THE HILTON LONG BEACH & EXECUTIVE MEETING CENTER



City of Long Beach
Mayor Robert Garcia

Dear Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 Contestants:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the beautiful and progressive city of Long Beach, California. Long Beach is the 7th largest city in California, yet has a variety of neighborhoods that make people feel at home. Long Beach has the best of Southern California dining, entertainment and culture all within easy, accessible areas.

I am honored that the Ms. Wheelchair California Foundation is hosting the Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 Leadership Academy and Pageant in Long Beach. Not only will this be the first time this event is hosted in Long Beach, but it is also the first time it will be hosted on the West Coast. I want to congratulate each one of you for your accomplishments and for representing your state in such a powerful and empowering way. Your hard work and dedication to the betterment of the disability community is changing lives one life at a time, and for that I commend you.

I applaud Ms. Wheelchair America for the remarkable job done to bring together impressive women from across the country to promote education and advocacy to more than 54 million Americans living with disabilities.

I am proud to say that Long Beach is home to three title holders, Jennifer Kumiyama - Ms. Wheelchair California 2010 and 1st Runner Up Ms. Wheelchair America 2011, Mary Zendejas - Ms. Wheelchair California 2012 and 3rd Runner Up Ms. Wheelchair America 2013 and Katie Hull - Little Ms. Wheelchair California 2012.

Again, welcome to the City of Long Beach California! I hope you enjoy your stay and come back to visit us soon,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Mayor

Ms. Wheelchair America 2014,

Jennifer Adams



Dear Ms. Wheelchair America 2015
Contestants and Supporters,

This year has been an adventure beyond what I could have imagined! Winning the title of Ms. Wheelchair America 2014 has been my greatest accomplishment to date and opened so many doors to my dreams. Since childhood I have dreamed of being an itinerate motivational speaker. Prior to winning the national title I started a motivational speaking business in 2011. Along with my speaking business I started an anti-bullying campaign called "The Power of Words." These campaigns were inspired by my own experiences with the power of words and lead me to success in winning the title of Ms. Wheelchair Washington. When competing for the national title in July of 2013 my vision broadened for a national platform of inclusion in all areas of American society, which inspired my national platform "Inclusion Revolution." The Ms. Wheelchair America 2014 Leadership Conference provided so much information and resources to expand my vision and become an even better advocate for people with disabilities in America. In the last year I have made appearances in 30 cities in America with my national platform. I have shared my story and

platform message school, corporations, churches and rehabilitation hospitals all throughout the United States. I have been adaptive surfing, adaptive skiing and have seen monumental places like Times Square, Central Park, Nashville Tennessee, Pearl Harbor and Boston Harbor. Participating in the state and national pageant of Ms. Wheelchair America has been an amazing opportunity to meet like-minded people who are empowered and passionately advocating for people with disabilities in America. I am so grateful for this experience. I hope you enjoy this year's Ms. Wheelchair America Leadership Conference 2014. May it open the doors to your dreams.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Adams

Dear Supporters and Friends,

On behalf of The Ms. Wheelchair California Foundation, I'd like to thank you for joining us for The 2015 Ms. Wheelchair America Leadership Forum and Pageant. We are delighted to call Long Beach, California the crowning place of the 43rd Ms. Wheelchair America!

The Ms. Wheelchair California Foundation Board of Directors and Volunteers have put forth an exorbitant amount of effort in preparing for this remarkable event. Here, at "The Entertainment Capitol of the World", we are ready to shine the spotlight on the true stars—the beautiful contestants of Ms. Wheelchair America of 2015. By showcasing their triumphs and celebrating each and every one of them, we are certain our contestants' journeys will be extraordinary during this truly special event.

For 43 years, the exemplary women who have partaken in Ms. Wheelchair America have ventured forth in bringing national awareness to people living with disabilities by not only breaking attitudinal and architectural barriers for the disability community, but they have also strengthened and enhanced legislation for Disability Rights. We hope that by your participation this year, you will witness firsthand the heroes that reside in these exceptional women, the positive awareness that they bring to the disability community, and how essential The Ms. Wheelchair Organization is to people with and without disabilities.

Thank you all for being here for this remarkable event, to those who made it possible and congratulations to the women of Ms. Wheelchair America 2015!

Gratefully yours,

Jennifer Kamigama

Ms. Wheelchair California 2010
MWA 2015 Host State Coordinator
Vice President, Ms. Wheelchair America



2333 Caspian Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90810
mswheelchaircaliforniafoundation.com



@MsWheelchrCAfnd



The Ms. Wheelchair California Foundation



Greetings from Sunny California,

On behalf of the Ms. Wheelchair America Inc. Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to Ms. Wheelchair America 2015, here in beautiful Long Beach, California. Are you ready for an amazing week? Are you ready to learn and share? I hope so. You will be challenged and changed.

Dr. Philip K. Wood saw challenges. He had devoted his career to rehabilitation, helping people overcome obstacles. He challenged others to use their talents, capabilities, and determination to be productive members of society. In 1972, he established Ms. Wheelchair America as a forum for change, a simple way for promoting the achievements and accomplishments of women who utilized wheelchairs for mobility. This year, as we crown the 43rd Ms. Wheelchair America it is important we take a moment to thank Dr. Wood for his commitment.

This organization has challenged and changed countless people, including you. I want to congratulate the state titleholders for all they have achieved to get here. They truly represent what Ms. Wheelchair America is all about. Each amazing woman will have the opportunity to share her talents, capabilities, determination. Their platform will educate, inform and motivate change.

Behind the scenes of this amazing organization are the state coordinators. They keep this program running at the state level, without their time and commitment, you would not be here. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication, as well as, challenge them to continue the work started by Dr. Wood.

A very special thank you goes out to Jennifer Kumiyama, The Ms. Wheelchair California Foundation and the amazing volunteers that have worked to make this week happen! Follow their example and "Leave a Legacy" to be proud of.

Finally, thanks to all of you for being here and helping us recognize and celebrate an amazing group of women!

Shelly Loose

President, Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.

P.O. Box 86 – Byron Center, Michigan 49315
1-877-MSWHEEL (679-4335)

Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 Speech Night

Friday August 8th, 2014

The Hilton Long Beach Hotel & Executive Meeting Center

6pm

Tapas on the Rooftop

6:30pm

Dessert in The Grand Ballroom

7:00pm

Contestant Speeches commence

Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 Pageant

Saturday August 9th, 2014

The Hilton Long Beach Hotel & Executive Meeting Center

Master of Ceremonies – Russ Marchand

5:30pm

Dinner in The Grand Ball Room

6:45pm

The Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 Pageant Opening Number

Introduction of Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 Contestants

Top 5 is announced

On Stage Judging Questions - Top 5

Awards - Shelly Loose, Ms. Wheelchair America President Best Speech, Lifetime Achievement Award, Ms. Congeniality, People's Choice Award and the Nikki Ard Award

Recognition of 2015 Sponsors - Jennifer Kumiya,
MWA Vice President Host State Coordinator for MWA 2015

Auction of The Tiaras

Farewell Speech - Ms. Wheelchair America 2015, Jennifer Lynn Adams

The Crowning of Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 followed by her acceptance speech

CONTESTANTS



LINDA TUCKER
MS. WHEELCHAIR ALABAMA 2014

Linda lives in Bessemer, Alabama and works at Weight Watchers International. She obtained a Nail Technician License from the Alabama State Board of Cosmetology. Linda enjoys spending time outdoors, cooking, reading, and spending time with her family & friends. She was born with Spina Bifida. Linda describes herself as independent, strong-willed, and humorous.



JULIET MARTINEZ
MS. WHEELCHAIR ARIZONA 2014

Juliet lives in Gilbert, Arizona where she works as a freelance business consultant. She also volunteers with the Phoenix Children's Hospital, Hope Kids Arizona, and Relay for Life. She received her masters degree in Business Management and Technology from Arizona State University. Juliet enjoys swimming, social media consulting, makeup, and traveling. She was diagnosed with Leukemia when she was 4 and stopped walking at age of 8 because of a medical malpractice. Juliet describes herself as bright, fun, and unstoppable.



THERESA DE VERA
MS. WHEELCHAIR CALIFORNIA 2014

Theresa lives in Los Angeles, California where she is the President of the Los Angeles Commission on Disabilities. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science in 2004 and Masters of Arts Degree in Pastoral Theology with an emphasis in Bioethics from Loyola Marymount University. Theresa enjoys volunteering, advocating, mentoring, and babysitting her twin nieces and nephew. She obtained a brain injury after suffering a severe asthma attack and went into cardio-respiratory arrest where she survived a 3-month coma. Theresa describes herself as driven, dependable, and loving life!



MELISSA WEISSER
MS. WHEELCHAIR COLORADO 2014

Melissa lives in Aurora, Colorado and works as a Legal Word Processor. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Metropolitan State College of Denver. Melissa enjoys reading, going out to eat, and walking her Dachshund, Bella. She became Paraplegic on July 11, 1992 at age of 16. Melissa describes herself as sassy, friendly, and optimistic.

CONTESTANTS



KOURTINEY LOCKHARD
MS. WHEELCHAIR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 2014

Kourtiney lives in Washington, DC where she works at Turner Elementary. She studied Office Support Specialist from Career Technical Institute. Kourtiney enjoys shopping, dancing, and fashion. She is a paraplegic due to a gunshot wound. Kourtiney describes herself as supportive, loyal, and reliable.



STEPHANIE WOODWARD
MS. WHEELCHAIR FLORIDA 2014

Stephanie lives in Miami, Florida and is an attorney at the Disability Independence Group—a not for profit disability rights law firm and is also a member of the grassroots disability rights advocacy group ADAPT. She earned her Bachelor's in Business and English from St. John Fisher in Rochester, NY and earned her law degree and Master's in Disability Studies from Syracuse University. Stephanie enjoys using a variety of methods to fight of disability rights both at work and outside of work, extreme sports including hang gliding and bungee jumping, and eating cheeseburgers every chance she gets. She was born with Spina Bifida and wouldn't have it any other way. Stephanie describes herself as passionate, impatient, and outspoken.



PEARL GANNON
MS. WHEELCHAIR ILLINOIS 2014

Pearl lives in Chicago, Illinois and volunteers through Canine Companions for Independence as well as being player representative for her wheelchair basketball team. She is studying American Sign Language and social work for early childhood intervention from the Center on Deafness and Wilbur Wright College. Pearl enjoys wheelchair basketball, adaptive wake boarding, learning sign language, and relaxing to read a book. She has a neuromuscular disorder similar to multiple sclerosis named Charcot-Marie-Tooth that first showed signs when she was eight years old. Pearl describes herself as hard working, passionate and somewhat of a daredevil.



RUTH SMITH
MS. WHEELCHAIR INDIANA 2014

Ruth lives in Fort Wayne, IN and works as a Receptionist at a Medical Doctors office and does volunteer counseling at Turnstone. She is pursuing a Masters Degree in Clinical Mental Health from the University of Saint Francis. Ruth enjoys cooking, crafting, traveling and animals. She contracted spinal bacterial meningitis (meningococemia) as an infant. She endured bilateral leg amputation above the knee, amputations of the nose and some fingers and loss of skin. Ruth describes herself as compassionate, strong-willed and genuine.

CONTESTANTS



MICHELE MEADORS
MS. WHEELCHAIR IOWA 2014

Michele lives in Des Moines, Iowa and serves on The IOWA Olmstead Consumer Task Force and for the Governor appointed Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). She received a QRMP/QDDP* (Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professional) from Indiana Protection Advocacy Agency. Michele enjoys advocacy, sporting events, and a refined interest in food. She experiences paralysis due to an automobile accident. Michele describes herself as inspiring, savvy and ambitious.



BIRGID SCHWILLIG
MS. WHEELCHAIR KANSAS 2014

Bridgid lives in Leavenworth, Kansas and does a variety of volunteer work with children, elderly, and the military. She is a licensed clinical social worker and addictions counselor. She obtained a Masters Degree in Social Work from Washburn University in 2003. Bridgid enjoys volunteering, swimming, reading, and working with her service dogs. She has had Cerebral Palsy since birth. Bridgid describes herself as purposeful, determined, and loyal.



BOBBIE JAMES
MS. WHEELCHAIR KENTUCKY 2014

Bobbie lives in Louisville, Kentucky and works at the Center for Accessible Living. She received her Masters Degree from Kaplan University. Bobbie enjoys swimming, reading, and participating, in Special Olympics. She is a quadriplegic because of an automobile accident on November 16, 2003. Bobbie describes herself as dependable, driven and ambitious.



LEAH HOFFPAUIR
MS. WHEELCHAIR LOUISIANA 2014

Leah lives in her hometown of Crowley, Louisiana. Leah recently obtained her associates degree in Fine Arts from the Louisiana State University at Eunice and will begin attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette this fall in the college of visual arts. When Leah is not in school she is working at Fezzo's Seafood, Steakhouse, and Oyster Bar. She enjoys painting, photography, and laughing till she cries. Leah is a quadriplegic and describes herself as witty, determined, and artistic.

CONTESTANTS



SHANI WATSON
MS. WHEELCHAIR MARYLAND 2014

Shani lives in Upper Marlboro, Maryland and works for the Prince George's County Police Department. She obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Management from University of Phoenix. Shani enjoys scuba diving, traveling, and teaching people with and without disabilities about accessibility and inclusion. She is a paraplegic because of a spinal cord injury. Shani describes herself as confident, capable, and conscientious.



ROSA ANGELICA COLÓN
MS. WHEELCHAIR MASSACHUSETTS 2014

Rosa is an identical twin that lives in Milton, Massachusetts and works as an Assistant Clerk Magistrate for the Boston Municipal Court West Roxbury Division. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover, MA. Rosa enjoys raising her two little nieces, Angelia 10 and Jayla 6 years old as a Foster Care mother. She is also involved with the Straight Ahead and Mother's Program. Rosa also enjoys volunteering at La Alianza Hispana. She suffered a Spinal Cord injury on April Fool's Day 2000. Rosa describes herself as fierce, relentless and resilient.



KELSEY KLEIMOLA
MS. WHEELCHAIR MICHIGAN 2014

Kelsey lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan and is a stay at home mom and professional volunteer. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in the field of Communication from Aquinas College. Kelsey enjoys scrapbooking, reading, writing, and meeting new people. She has had Cerebral Palsy from birth. Kelsey describes herself as driven, passionate and joyful.



KELSEY PETERSON
MS. WHEELCHAIR MINNESOTA 2014

Kelsey lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota and volunteers at Circus Juventas. She studied dance, receiving her B.F.A. from the University of Montana. Kelsey enjoys live music, yoga and spending time with her friends and family. She is a C6 quadriplegic after a driving accident on July 4th, 2012. Kelsey describes herself as funny, outgoing and driven.

CONTESTANTS



CHAE'MONALEASZA HARRIS
MS. WHEELCHAIR MISSISSIPPI 2014

Chae'MonaLeasza Harris lives in Meridian, Mississippi and volunteered as an activity director at Oak nursing home and Meridian Community living Center. She is the proud mother and wife of 24 years. This newly crowned advocate has spent the last few months learning that all God's creation is beautiful. Her hobbies are reading the bible, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. Most of all, she enjoys being able to support and attend her family's events despite being confined to a wheelchair. Chae'MonaLeasza has Multiple Sclerosis. She describes herself as loving, intelligent, nurturing and determined.



JESSICA PATTERSON
MS. WHEELCHAIR NEW YORK 2014

Jessica lives in Weedsport, New York and works as a volunteer at Upstate's Golisano Children's Hospital in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Oswego State College. Jessica enjoys her work with children, participating in 5K events, volunteering with MoveAlong Inc. Adaptive Sports Programs and spending quality time with her friends and family. She was injured in an automobile accident on April 11, 2003 and became paraplegic after a transected aorta and two tears caused a loss of blood flow to her legs. Jessica describes herself as compassionate, generous and ambitious.



ARIELLA BAKER
MS. WHEELCHAIR NORTH CAROLINA 2014

Ariella lives in Charlotte, North Carolina and works for Charlotte School of Law as a professor of law. She obtained Bachelors in Business and Administration and Doctorate in Law. Emory University. Ariella enjoys playing the flute, learning and speaking foreign languages, doing needlepoint, and singing. She has Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type III, which was diagnosed at age 3. Ariella is passionate, humorous, and intelligent.



ELIZABETH SCHRACK
MS. WHEELCHAIR OHIO 2014

Elizabeth lives in Dayton, Ohio and attends school. She studies social work and will earn her bachelor's from Wright State University. Elizabeth enjoys reading, writing historical fiction, and dancing. She has had Cerebral Palsy since birth. Elizabeth describes herself as funny, intelligent and compassionate.

CONTESTANTS



MARY BETH DAVIS
MS. WHEELCHAIR OKLAHOMA 2014

Mary Beth lives in Stillwater, Oklahoma and volunteers at her local animal shelter and vet clinic and serves as a peer mentor for newly injured and currently injured patients with spinal cord injuries. She recently received her Bachelor's degree in Zoology with a minor in Nutritional Sciences from Oklahoma State University. Mary Beth enjoys cooking, reading, playing with her animals, and staying physically active in support of her platform speech focusing on health and nutrition. She sustained a C6-C7 spinal cord injury for years ago and functions as paraplegic. Mary Beth describes herself as passionate, determined and open-minded.



JENNIFER GILLILAND
MS. WHEELCHAIR PENNSYLVANIA 2014

Jen lives in Harrisville, Pennsylvania and works at the Office of Personnel Management Federal Investigative Services as a Program Analyst. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from St. Andrews University. Jen enjoys spending time with her friends and family, volunteering and working in her church, and spreading awareness of Invisible Disabilities in an effort to make the invisible visible and accepted. She contracted Transverse Myelitis at the age of 15 and as a result was left paralyzed from the waist down. Jen describes herself as determined, outgoing and friendly.



AMANDA SZIDIRUPULOSZ
MS. WHEELCHAIR TENNESSEE 2014

Amanda lives in Cleveland, Tennessee and is a music teacher at Charleston Elementary School in Bradley County. She received her Bachelors of Music Education from Middle Tennessee State University, her Masters of Technology in Teaching from Walden University and has begun work on her Doctorate in Education with a focus on Teacher Leadership. Amanda enjoys crafting, writing and spending time with friends and family. She was born with Spina Bifida and Scoliosis. Amanda describes herself as creative, compassionate and determined.



LAURA HALVORSON
MS. WHEELCHAIR TEXAS 2014

Laura lives in Plano, Texas and volunteers at nonprofits for people with disabilities such as Camp Craig Allen as their Programs Director and gives presentations for Service Dogs Inc. She received her Masters of Special Education from Texas Woman's University and is certified as an Educational Diagnostician. Laura enjoys going on adventures with her service dog, adaptive water skiing, playing ukulele, and traveling. She was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at age 15. Laura describes herself as determined, caring and witty.

CONTESTANTS



AMANDA RHEES
MS. WHEELCHAIR UTAH 2014

Amanda lives in Pleasant View, Utah and works at Green Acres Elementary School. She volunteers for Freedom Riders, Make-A-Wish, and is a Garden Aide on Temple Square. She received her diploma from Weber High School. Amanda enjoys horseback riding, gardening, drawing, and spending time with her large family. She was born with Spina Bifida. Amanda describes herself as service-oriented, loving, and full of positivity.



KANIKA DAVIS
MS. WHEELCHAIR VIRGINIA 2014

Kanika lives in Lynchburg, VA and works for the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, which provides vocational services to individuals with disabilities who are trying to enter the workforce. She obtained a B.A. in Psychology and a Masters in Professional Counseling from Radford University (BA); Liberty University (MA). Kanika enjoys traveling, making accessory jewelry, volunteering with Young Leaders Society through the United Way of Central Virginia. She sustained a spinal cord injury during a surgery performed on her abdomen due to complications of Crohn's Disease when she was 15 years old. Kanika describes herself as creative, motivated and funny.



EVELYNNA CASTRO
MS. WHEELCHAIR WASHINGTON 2014

Evelynna lives in Longview, WA. Evelynna is the owner of Special FX Make-up Artist at EC Makeup Alchemy. She is also the owner/operator of Evelynna's Voice-Over Studio. Evelynna studied Theatre Arts and Makeup from Foothill Theatre Conservatory and Cinema Makeup School. Evelynna enjoys archery, performing, music, and make up FX. She was born with Spina Bifida. Evelynna describes herself as determined, passionate and strong-willed.



SAMANTHA SCHROTH
MS. WHEELCHAIR WISCONSIN 2014

Samantha lives in Greenville, Wisconsin and works with the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities as a research assistant in veterinary biomedical science. She received a Bachelor's Degree in animal science and a minor in biology from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Samantha enjoys racing, writing, and making others around her laugh. She incurred a spinal cord injury in a freak accident when a dead tree fell on her resulting in paraplegia. Sam describes herself as passionate, intelligent and witty.



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Providers Association: Albany, NY
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Syracuse Corvette Club: Syracuse, NY
Miss. Syracuse Organization/Salt City
Royalty: Syracuse, NY
Family: Jason, Catherine, Dan, Dow,
Sandy, Jamie, Nadine, Brandon,
Chrissy, Todd, Roxanne, David
TH Photography: Weedsport, NY

Guardian Glass Industries: Geneva, NY
The Wester Dahl Family
The Pacholyk Family Members
MoveAlong Inc. Adaptive Sports:
Oswego, NY
Jeff & Cathy Wright
Kyle, Katie and Kristian Gibson
David Wilkinson & Dianne Gladky
The Volan Family Members
The Vogeledede Family Members
Molly, Catherine, Laura, Alexis, Josh,
Carolyn, Willem, Martin, Candice,
Tiffany
Jill, Tom, Melissa, Dan, Libby, Katie,
Kyle, Serena, Ion, Jeremy, Leslie,
Nancy, Karen, Jennifer,
Amanda, Alice, Val, Richard, Sabrina,
Pete, Pamela, Mary, Tom, Caleb,
Cormack, Becky, Melissa
Julian, Julie, Tina, Tim, Wendy,
Caitlin, Cari, Chlow, Rea, Jules,
Nancy, Sue, Christopher, Sharon
Monica, Luticha, Arlena, Kristy,
Katelyn, Jim, Amy, Beau, David,
Dana, Leanne, Zak, Christina, Jane
Stephanie's, Omneya, Greg, Lindsey,
Lisa, Jackie, Matt
Holly Giacalone & Zachary Yoffe
Emily & Frank Sciarretta
Weedsport Central School District
Mr. James Ennis
Booster.com
Ms. Jean Forster
Faculty & Staff of Upstate's Golisano
Children's Hospital

NORTH CAROLINA

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Blair Alexander Knox
Beth Catranis
Phyllis Glazer, Esq.
Joel Rosner, Esq.
Paul Vesely
Suzanne Zumbach
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Rise Up to Cure Paralysis
Opa Philip Bendheim
Adrian White
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Marc Grey, Esq.
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Gus Mancini
Sgt. David Shimshi
Lt. Ari Maas
August Adams
Dr. Michael Wilhite, DDS, PA.
Tirzah Photography.
Van Products, Inc.
Wallgreens, Inc.
American Specialty Transportation
Service LLC.

OHIO

Wright State University
Wright State University Foundation
Gayle Schrack
Leslie Baird
Mallory Holler
Jean Denney
Thomas Webb

OKLAHOMA

Dr. and Mrs. Rocky Bigbie
Phil and Sharon Bieker
Mid-America Chapter Paralyzed
Veterans of America
InterBank- Oklahoma/Texas
Erik Petersen and Petersen Creations
Jeff Chappell and Companion Health
Services
Flashback Car Club- Guthrie, OK
John Vance Auto Group
Chickasaw Nation
Edmond Family Dental
Asa and Audra Nelson- Nelson
Monument Company
Dr. Amal E. Moorad, MD
Dr. Brent Tipton, MD
Keith Wilton, VP, Jim Thorpe
Rehabilitation
Dr. Kristi Self, MD
Dr. Wenjia Zeng, MD
Neuro Resources
Larry and Robin Nicholas
Bill and Judy Antle
Clint and Teresa Davis
Daniel Peteresen
Oklahoma State University Undergrad
Services and Colvin Center
Kicker Mobile and Audio Products -
Stillwater, OK
University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City Red Hawk's
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreational
Department
Robert and Laura Tomlin
Guthrie Chamber of Commerce
Jesa Lopez
All of Mary Beth's family, friends, and
the entire community of Guthrie, OK

PENNSYLVANIA

Polk Presbyterian Church
Bethel Presbyterian Church
Forrestville United Methodist Church
Bradford First Church of the Nazarene
Troy Alan Chevrolet
Static Styling Salon
M.J. Weidner Photography
Turner Insurance Agency

TENNESSEE

Superior Van & Mobility
Carr Rehab
Disability Law & Advocacy Center
Drs. Shields & Shields
Insync Resources
McGrath Solutions, Inc.
United Knitting
M&M Mars
Coca Cola
Angie Underwood Photography
Manufacturer's Chemicals
Sim and Anne Marie Wilson
Dana Slack
Jeannette Beach
Create & Celebrate Studios
Terry & Tammy Beaty
Charleston Elementary School
Melissa Crittenden
The Prendergast Family
Jill Hammond
The Maddox Family
Reba Garrison, State Farm Insurance
Kevin & Teri Lynn Duggan
Pro X Powersports, Chattanooga, TN
The Catch Bar & Grill, Cleveland, TN

The Keen family
Debo's Kitchen, Chattanooga TN
Lassiter's Coffee House
Village Bake Shop, Cleveland, TN
Cakes by Christy

TEXAS

TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital
Ms. Wheelchair Texas Foundation
United Access
Permobil
Camp Craig Allen
Stout's Dallas
Rulli Torres
The Halvorson and Woodling Family

UTAH

The Dale B. Hull
Foundation/Neuroworx
Albrechtsen Orthodontics
T-Mobile
Bella's Fresh Mexican Grill
Isagenix

VIRGINIA

Lynchburg Community
Avanate' Nursing Home, Lynchburg VA
Riverside Rehabilitation Institute,
Newport News VA
Civitan Group, Petersburg VA
Ms. Wheelchair VA Inc., Fishersville VA
Sodexo, Lynchburg VA
Crown Sterling, Lynchburg VA
RA Bistro, Lynchburg VA
Sweet Frog, Lynchburg VA
Steven Toyota, Harrisonburg VA
Isabella's Italian Restaurant,
Lynchburg VA
Chik fil A, Lynchburg VA
Kroger, Lynchburg VA
Libbey Family Dentistry, Forest VA
Holiday Inn Select, Lynchburg VA
Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship,
Lynchburg VA
Kim Davis, Lynchburg VA
Mrs. Ann Johnson, Lynchburg VA
Mr. Tim Beatty, Lynchburg VA
Kelly Bryant, Lynchburg VA
Cheryl Brown, Lynchburg VA
American Legion Post, Lynchburg VA
Kimberly Davis, Dale City VA
Catherine Davis, Lynchburg VA
Family and friends of Kanika
Home Depot, Lynchburg VA

WASHINGTON

Varilite
Pink Papaya
Seattle Adaptive Sports
Olympic Pharmacy
Casey's Kettle Corn
By Design Group Inc.
Dream Catcher
Talk & Roll Enterprises

WISCONSIN

Barnes & Associates Dentistry
NuMotion
TML Auto
Wichman Farms Maple Syrup
Ray and Mary Hosmer
Omro Pharmacy
Bridal Elegance and Formalwear
Glen & Daniels
Tri City Glass & Door
Tommy Brown Photography

JUDGES & EMCEE



JEWELL MASSEY - HEAD JUDGE

Jewell Massey retired from teaching in 1996 due to post polio syndrome and recently returned to Knoxville, Tennessee after teaching high school biology in Florida and elementary gifted in Georgia. Currently, she is remodeling a 1930's bungalow and reinventing herself as a raised bed gardener.

Shortly before polio vaccine was discovered, Jewell was diagnosed with the acute paralytic polio and could only move the fingers on her left hand. At 13, a counselor at Camp Easter Seal had suggested college and changed the course of Jewell's life. Graduations followed from Lincoln Memorial University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology, Mercer University with a Masters degree in Biology, the University of Georgia with an Ed.S. in behavior disorders, and Macon College with an Associate degree in criminal justice.

Jewell served as Ms. Wheelchair Georgia in 1988 and Ms. Wheelchair America 1989. She has been an advocate for many years in various capacities: peer supporter at Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta, First International Conference on the Church and Disability, Project Smile, Camp Phoenix for children with burns, child abuse, National Association for Mental Illness, Council of Exceptional Children, Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Arthritis Association, MDA volunteer for several years, committee for fundraising for AIDS Center, Para Olympics torch bearer, polio post child, Shriner's poster child, mito-chondrial diseases, Cerebral Palsy, and Alzheimer's. She was a Pilot Clubs Georgia Professional Woman of the Year, Gifted Teacher of the Year in Macon, served on the Georgia Governor's Council on Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Executive Director of Macon Mayor's Council on Employment of People with Disabilities, Macon Council's Citizen of the Year, 1990 Census Committee, and others.

She would tell you that there have been many "encouragers" along the way and folks who believed in her before she was strong enough to believe in herself. Somehow, there were always bridges from one phase to the next level of adventure. There were honors and achievements and titles, but the biggest honor was the one allowing her to accompany her Mother as a 24/7 caregiver on her Alzheimer's Journey.



DAVID KORSE, JUDGE

David has been working in the F2F (Face-to-face) Events (exhibitions, conferences, special events) industry for 30 years. He has held senior management positions with a number of international exhibition organizing companies and he has been responsible for launching, managing and growing over 300 events in North America, Europe and Asia.

Since 2008 he and his business partner Lewis Shomer have been the owners and managers of the Abilities Expo series of events for the disability community held around the United States.



LLOYD UPDIKE, JUDGE

Lloyd Updike is an Area Sales Manager for Braun Ability the world's largest manufacture of adaptive equipment for our disabled community. Lloyd is responsible for the Braun dealer network in the country of Canada and is the liaison for his company between Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. as well as Toyota Canada Inc.

Lloyd has been serving the disabled community for over 15 years providing service and products to the Braun Ability dealer distribution network. He works closely with various State and Federal agencies as well as Rehab and Care facilities. He rises in Lincoln, Nebraska and travels extensively throughout Canada and the U.S.

Lloyd can be reached at Lloyd.updike@brauanlift.com



GAIL WILLIAMSON, JUDGE

Gail Williamson is a well-respected advocate for performers with disabilities supporting their diverse images in television, film, commercials, theatre and print advertising. She is currently employed by Kazarian, Measures, Ruskin and Associates & Associates Talent Agency in Los Angeles, California where she oversees their Diversity Department representing talent with disabilities. Gail spent 12 years working with the California Governor's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities out of their Media Access Office where she got her introduction to the casting process. Today she also continues to support her passion project, Down Syndrome in Arts & Media, a casting liaison service for talent with developmental disabilities across the nation and around the world.

Women Who Make a Difference. She received the Changing Images in America Award for her advocacy in the entertainment field as well as a Tri-Union (Screen Actors Guild, American Federation of Television and Radio Artist and Actor's Equity) Diversity Award in 2004. Gail was also recognized in 1999 as American Mothers Incorporated's California State and National Mother of the Year.

During the 1990's Gail and her husband Tommie took their 6 nieces into their home after the deaths of Gail's brother and sister-in-law. The girls joined the Williamson's two sons. The youngest son Blair, born with Down syndrome was already a professional actor with some nice credits to his name. Gail's experience with Blair's career made her even more passionate about creating more diverse characters with disabilities in the entertainment industry.



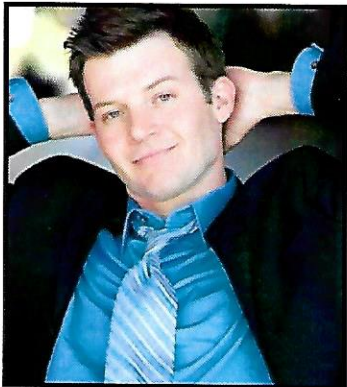
SHARINA JONES, JUDGE

Michigan native, Sharina Jones was a shooting victim when she was just five years old. This event left her unable to walk for the rest of her life. More importantly, however, it was the beginning of the unveiling of Sharina's purpose in life; to inspire others to reach their greatest potential. Even from such an early age, Sharina was aware that she was to overcome her tragedy by not focusing on herself, but to move forward to help those around her. With the help and guidance of her family, friends, medical personnel and others, Sharina was able to adjust to her circumstances, pushing past huge obstacles and limitations, and perform her life's mission.

After graduating high school she continued her education and attended Mott Community College, earning an Associate's degree; the first in her family to attend college. She continued her education and earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Oakland University, and an MBA from

Wayne State University in 2008.

Ms. Wheelchair America 2012. She established the nonprofit organization, Think Beyond the Chair, and also started the motivational clothing and accessories company Push Goddess, LLC. Her first book, Life of a Push Goddess, is one of her favorite accomplishments. She is currently writing her second book, Not All Goddesses Are Alike. Sharina was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Michigan in 2011, 1st But when asked, it is her marriage to Grover Jones in May of 2010 that brings Sharina the most joy. The loving couple resides in Michigan, where they enjoy all that life has to offer.



RUSS MARCHAND, EMCEE

Russ was born and raised in Las Vegas and always wanted to be in show business. He didn't have the right curves to be a showgirl so decided to study comedy instead, and began getting laughs at the ripe old age of 5 with his now infamous bunny fart routine. Russ's love of hosting started early in life. He spent hours watching game shows and pretending to be the host during commercial breaks.

Marchand is a classically trained actor who has studied theatre at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and improv with the Upright Citizens Brigade LA. Russ, a skilled live event host has been the go-to host for Disney for years. He has hosted events with Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez, Tyra Banks and many others (not to mention Mickey Mouse). He has toured the country as a spokesman for Mercedes-Benz, Buick Pontiac GMC, Kinerase Skincare and of course, Disney.

Often regarded as a 'One Take Wonder,' Russ's acerbic wit and charming swagger have made him the ideal host for skewering pop culture and current events. As a host, comedian, writer and super nice guy, Russ is a pleasure to work with and his creativity knows no limits.



Purpose and Goals

Each year the Ms. Wheelchair America Program holds a competition to select the most accomplished, articulate spokeswoman for the people with disabilities. The titleholder must be able to communicate and educate the public, business community, and lawmakers regarding the dignity, productiveness and basic value of people with disabilities. Ms. Wheelchair America continues to eliminate the architectural and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with disabilities from assuming their right place in society.

Ms. Wheelchair America has numerous duties. During her reign, she has the opportunity to travel, visit advocacy groups, make public appearances, and conduct interviews. Ms. Wheelchair America promotes her chosen platform in a variety of settings. She serves as a positive role model for the next generation of Americans with disabilities inspiring them to leave their own legacy. Her commitment and personal example to serve to further the mission of Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.

The pageant is made up of multitude of activities. This allows the judging panel time with the state titleholders, while enabling the competitors an opportunity to share with each other and develop friendships. The titleholders become stronger advocates throughout the week because of the variety of interesting workshops that strengthen them. These workshops develop skills that heighten awareness on issues within the community and open a dialogue between the women and their thoughts, ideas, values, and experiences.

The Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that is staffed and coordinated totally by volunteers from many different organizations, businesses, private citizens, and previous titleholders. It is through the monetary and in-kind support of the many sponsors that the national titleholder is able to fulfill her duties throughout the year and travel across the country with her message of empowerment for people with disabilities. The Ms. Wheelchair America program is actively seeking sponsors and volunteers and would appreciate any support that is offered.

Judging Criteria

The Ms. Wheelchair America judging is based upon criteria established by the national committee of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. The following excerpts were taken from the official guidelines:

- A. Accomplishments
 - a. Personal Achievements and Accomplishments since Disability in the following areas:
 - i. Academic
 - ii. Vocational
 - iii. Personal
 - b. Adjustment to Disability
- B. Community Skills
 - a. Ability to deal with media, peers, civic groups, etc.
 - b. Public Relation Skills
 - c. Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
 - d. Self-confidence – Motivation – Initiative – Creativity
- C. Self-Perception – Projection
 - a. Poise and Demeanor
 - b. Appropriate Attire and Personal Presentation

Ms. Wheelchair America Creed

As Ms. Wheelchair America,
I promise to do my best to promote public awareness of people with disabilities,
To use my time and efforts to this purpose,
To strive to achieve the best that is within me,
To offer my hand in friendship to everyone I meet,
To be cheerful, honest and loving,
To give hope to the less fortunate,
To set an example by my attitude, and
To do all this with grace, warmth and dignity.



HISTORY

In 1972 Dr. Philip K. Wood of Columbus, Ohio had devoted his career to treating and rehabilitating persons with functional impairments. During his practice, he became aware of the talents, capabilities, determination and courage of persons with disabilities. As a result, he established Ms. Wheelchair America as a forum for promoting the achievements and accomplishments of woman who utilize wheelchairs for mobility, as well as the needs of all persons with mobility challenges.

The mission of Ms. Wheelchair America is to provide an opportunity for women of achievement to successfully educate about and advocate for the more than 54million Americans living with disabilities. The Ms. Wheelchair America Program is in no way a traditional beauty contest.

Ms. Wheelchair America

PAST TITLEHOLDERS

1973	Patricia Nevins	Michigan	1994	Dawn Blodgett.....	California
1974	Janie Robinson.....	Texas	1995	Wendy Petzold.....	Wisconsin
1975	Kathy Smith-Tiley.....	Alabama	1996	Amy Baker-Ley.....	Texas
1976	Dixie Lee Etheridge.....	Mississippi	1997	Elaine Stefanowicz.....	Washington
1977	Beverly Chapman.....	Florida	1998	Terri Cecil.....	Kentucky
1978	Margie Sloan.....	Georgia	1999	Christina Gilmore.....	Wisconsin
1979	Margie Chmielewski.....	Michigan	2000	Tracy Charlton-O'Connor.....	South Dakota
1980	Nancy Pudvin.....	Georgia	2001	Nicki Ard.....	South Carolina
1981	Vivian Thompson.....	Massachusetts	2002	Candy Marsh.....	Colorado
1982	Marian Schooling-Vessell.....	Maryland	2003	Catherine Gugala.....	Wisconsin
1983	Barbara Crozier.....	Alabama	2004	Cinda Hughes.....	Oklahoma
1984	Gaynell Colburn.....	Maryland	2005	Juliette Rizzo.....	Maryland
1985	Lori Cottam.....	Utah	2006	Kristen Connor.....	Rhode Island
1986	Donna Cline.....	Nevada	2007	Autumn Grant.....	Massachusetts
1987	Sandra Honbaier.....	North Carolina	2008	Kristen McCosh.....	Massachusetts
1988	Peggy Simpson.....	Alabama	2009	Michelle Colvard.....	Texas
1989	Jewell Massey.....	Georgia	2010	Erika Bogen.....	North Carolina
1990	Kathy Garcia-Farnsworth.....	Utah	2011	Alenxandra McArthur.....	North Carolina
1991	Mercedes Rodgriques-Fowler.....	Florida	2012	Josie Badgar.....	Pennsylvania
1992	Deanna Green-VanHook.....	Texas	2013	Mariah Kilbourne.....	Texas
1993	Kim Mensi.....	Alabama	2014	Jennifer Adams.....	Washington

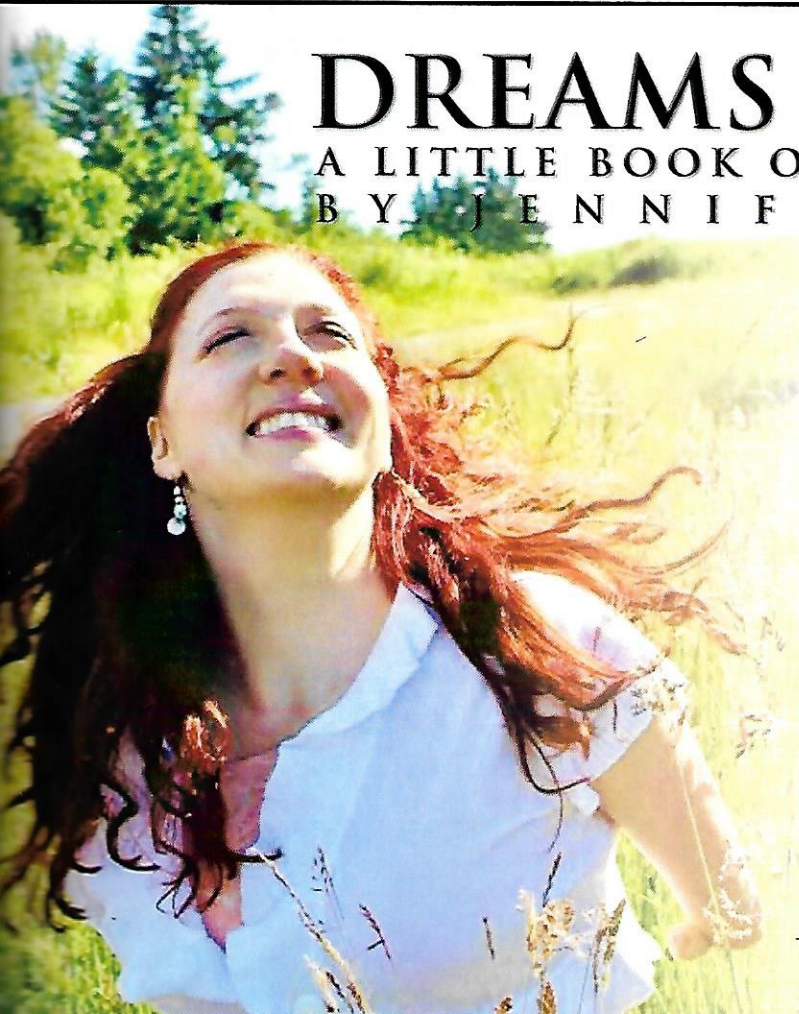
DREAMS COME TRUE!

A LITTLE BOOK ON THE POWER OF WORDS

BY JENNIFER LYNN ADAMS

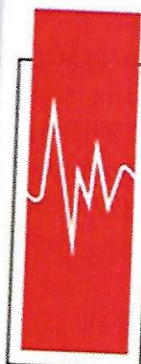
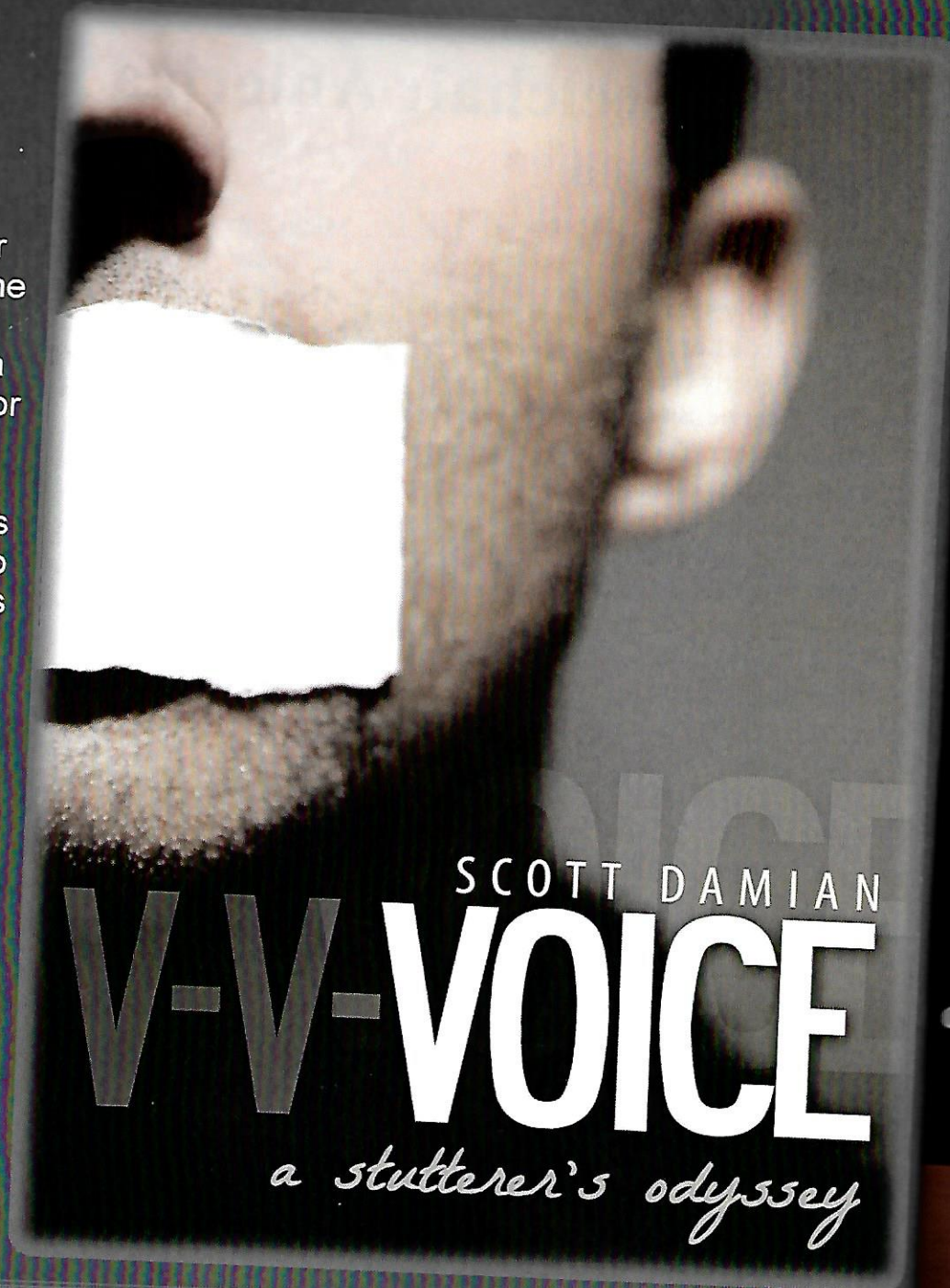
This book demonstrates that words have the power to make dreams come true! It gives little glimpses into the life and story of Jennifer Lynn Adams, who was born with partial limbs, and overcame every obstacle to her dreams through receiving kind, true and supportive words from others. The book lovingly guides children ages 5-10 to recognize the power of words, and shows them how they can help others and themselves achieve their dreams by using words of love, kindness and support with everyone in their world.

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From his haunting blue-collar childhood in New Orleans to the physical and psychological scars that led Damian down a path of self-destructive behavior that was as crippling as the stuttering itself, "V-V-Voice: A Stutterer's Odyssey" chronicles the struggles of one stutterer to do the unimaginable; to use his voice as an actor and a writer, and help others find their own.

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Scott Damian is a recipient of the Stuttering Foundation's "Converting Action Into Awareness" Award in 2012.

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of America

www.paaofa.org

****Formally known as DisABLED Professionals Association****

PAA is an association formed and operated by business professionals with disABILITIES for business professionals with disABILITIES and friends.

The Mission of Professional Abilities Association is ...

To develop and establish a network of business professionals with disabilities.

Focusing on supporting and recognizing business professionals with disabilities, their accomplishments and ABILITIES, while promoting awareness of the strength and richness they bring to the business professional community.

WWW.PAAOFA.ORG

**Professional Abilities Association....
Empowering Through Knowledge,
Unity & Pride!**

Schwartz Roller & Zwillling

is a national law firm primarily engaged in the representation of individuals with disabilities in an effort to enforce their civil rights under the American's with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act, Fair Housing Amendments Act, Architectural Barriers Act, Air Carrier Access Act and various civil rights laws against discrimination on the basis of disability.

We also consult for businesses and municipalities who wish to draft a work plan to remove barriers and engage in voluntary ADA compliance.

Please contact us regarding issues affecting your civil rights in any state to determine whether we can be of assistance.

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

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Ms. Wheelchair California 2014
THANK YOU

Theresa de Vera

for all of your hard work and dedication to uphold the mission of The Ms. Wheelchair California Foundation. We are grateful to have you to represent The Golden State! You make us all so proud! We love you!

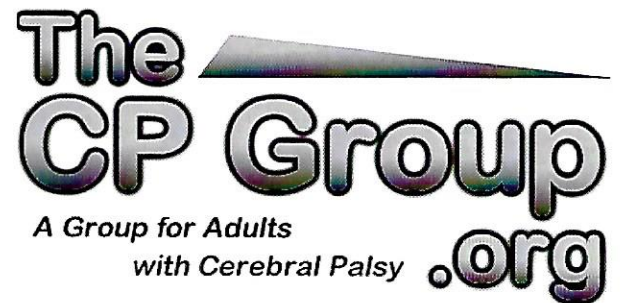
The MWCF Board of Directors:
Alyson Roth, Mary Zendejas,
Elizabeth Cruz, Carolyn Rossi and Sarah Hull
Little Miss Wheelchair California Luzi Ashly
and your State Coordinator, Kumi



The Kentucky Board of Directors wish you GOOD LUCK!



And remember...Reach for the sky...it has no limits!



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The CP Group

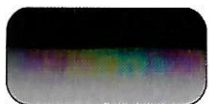
A Group for Adults with Cerebral Palsy
www.thecpgroup.org

Proud Supporter of
Shani Watson

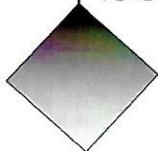
Ms. Wheelchair Maryland 2014 & Ms. Wheelchair America 2015 Pageant

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Wishing you all the best,
Laura Halvorson!



Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2014

THE
Ms. Wheelchair Texas
FOUNDATION

iamShani

advocate trainer speaker



*Good Luck
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The background of the 3E Love Movement advertisement is a dense collage of various images. It includes photos of diverse groups of people, some wearing t-shirts with the "3E LOVE" logo, and others holding signs. One prominent sign says "Love Life". There are also images of people in wheelchairs, emphasizing the organization's focus on accessibility and inclusion. The overall color palette is a mix of blues, greys, and natural tones, with a semi-transparent dark blue overlay across the entire image.


3E LOVE
embrace. educate. empower.

Join the Movement

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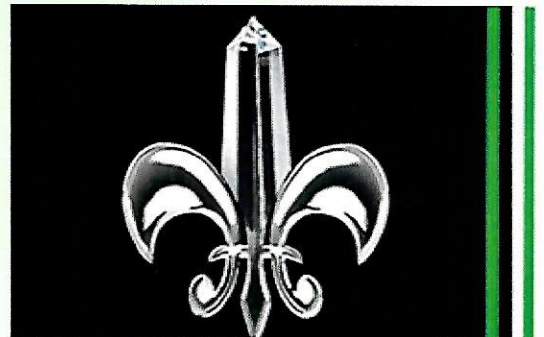


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CRESCENT



Congratulations to Miss Wheelchair Maryland 2014
Miss Shani Watson



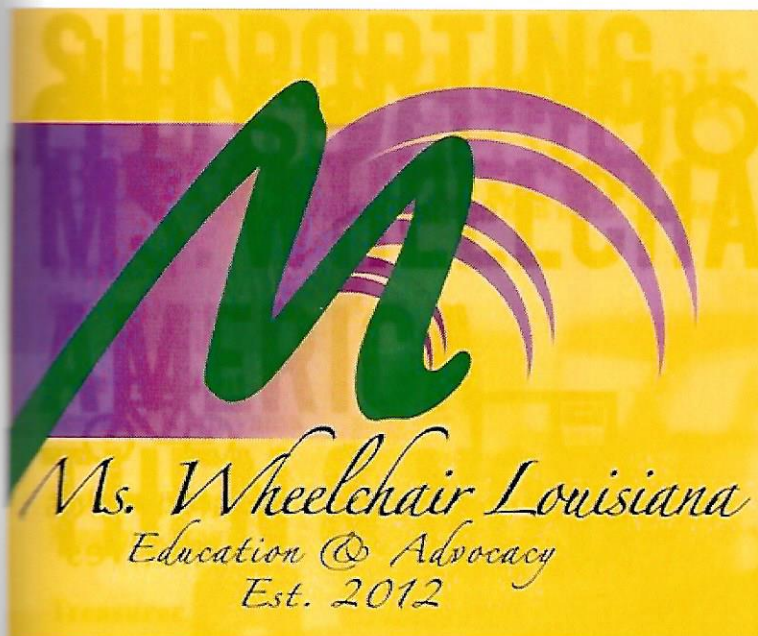
Congratulations, Theresa.

Bring the crown home to California!

From your friends at Access.

access

Access Services PO Box 5728 El Monte, CA 91734-1728 accessla.org



*Best Wishes to Ms. Wheelchair Louisiana 2014,
Leah Hoffpauir
Sincerely, Anita Gray,
MWLA State Coordinator*



**Congrats to the
New Ms. Wheelchair!**



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Los Angeles Convention Center

New York - May 1-3, 2015
New Jersey Conv. & Expo Center

Chicago - June 12-14, 2015
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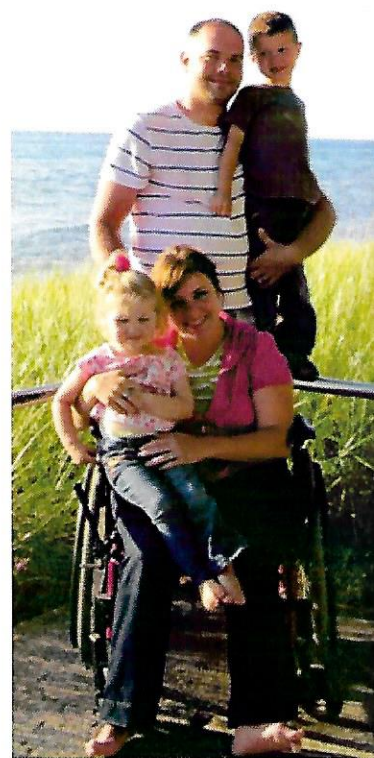


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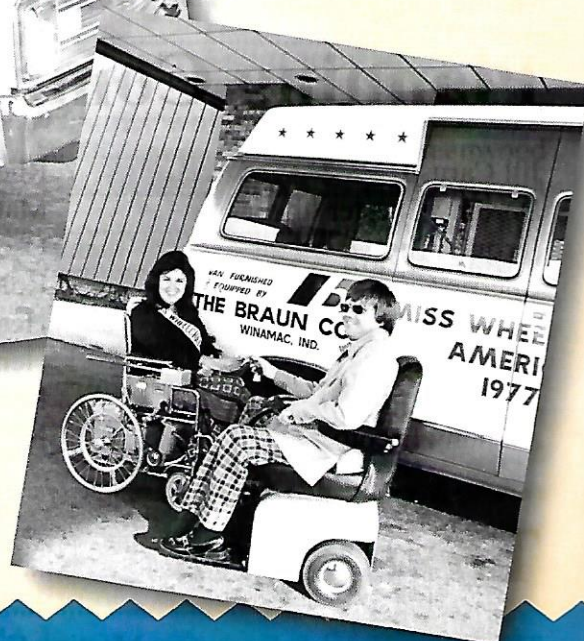


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Bev Chapman, Miss Wheelchair America 1977
with Ralph Braun, Founder of BraunAbility.



**BraunAbility has been a proud supporter of the
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**We believe in education, disability advocacy and achievements of the
accomplished women in this program.**

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Production Team

Stage Manager – Sandra Halloran

Assistant Stage Managers – Kathy & Keith Cunningham, Austin R. Sarti and Meghann McCullough

Lighting Technician – Chuck Brandt, BCT Entertainment

Lighting Technician Assistant – Jeff Handke

Sound Technician – Elijah Reyes, Ignite Entertainment

Sound Technician Assistant – Jeffrey Gerrards

Event Photographer – Beth Dubber Corey and Volunteers

Hair and Make-Up Team – Rheanne Garcia, Anthony Escoto and volunteers

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Vice President – Mary Zendejas, Ms. Wheelchair California 2012

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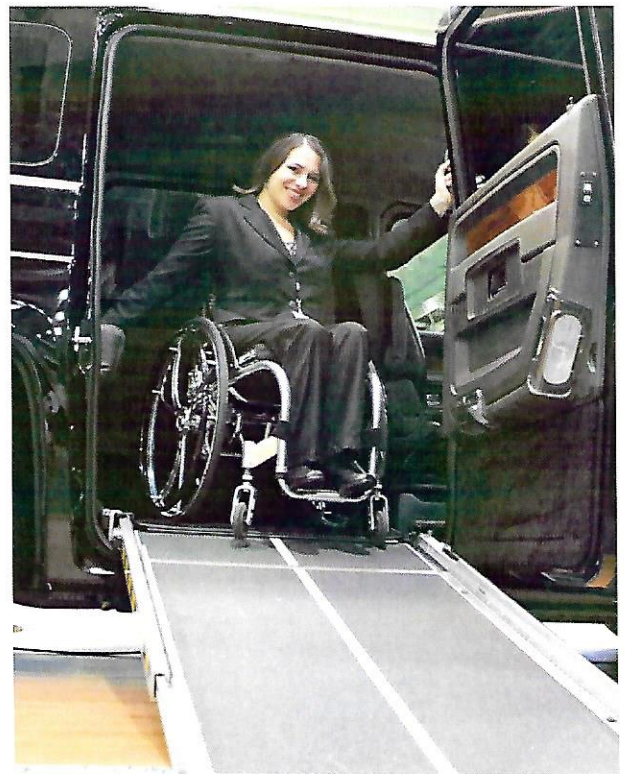


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