



Chairs & Cares Model Accessible House, Inc.  
A Wisconsin Licensed 501c3 Approved Nonprofit Corporation

## **Chairs & Cares Accessible Home**

### Project Abstract

#### **Facts: Year 2000 Census**

- Wisconsin population = 5,363,675.
  - Population over age five with disabilities = 790,917 (14.7%)
  - Population age 65 or older = 702,641 (13.1%).
- Marathon County population = 126,031
  - Population over age five with disabilities = 17,190 (13.6%)
  - Population age 65 or older = 16,384 (13.0%).
  - State population age 65 or older with a disability = 242,237 (36.5%)

According to Options for Independent Living, “One out of six Americans (approximately 55 million) will experience what is deemed to be a significant disability during their life. With our aging population, by 2012 more Americans will be over age 65 than under it, the need for accessible living accommodations will only grow.” “Persons with disabilities are the greatest growing minority in the U.S. today.”

#### **Purpose**

Provide a resource specializing in, but not limited to, wheelchair accessible home design. The facility will be a blend of accessibility modifications, adaptive furniture, fixtures, and equipment, and technology designed to showcase state-of-the-art accessibility in residential environments. The concept of “universal design” will be demonstrated throughout the facility.

- It will be designed to give people with disabilities and others interested in accessibility a first-hand view of technology to promote independence.
- It will serve as a “working lab” for students from Northcentral Technical College who will use it to learn about accessibility design, adaptive equipment, and construction techniques.
- It will provide a “hands-on” model home for use by physical therapists and other medical providers to explore practical independent living options.
- It will provide a resource for insurance claim rehabilitation and occupational nurses to learn about accessible construction design, furniture, fixtures and equipment.

**Mission:** Educate about accessibility through example.

The mission of this facility will be to promote through example, education and demonstration the fact that physical limitations of varying degrees – whether due to accident, illness, infirmities of aging or other cause (temporary or permanent) – need not be a handicap, particularly in one’s own home.

*Solutions for people with challenges in mobility, vision and hearing*



Chairs & Cares Model Accessible House, Inc.  
A Wisconsin Licensed 501c3 Approved Nonprofit Corporation

### **Proposal**

Build and maintain one wheelchair accessible single story demonstration home with basement. The entire facility (house and basement) as well as the surrounding landscape will display and demonstrate, in an actual home setting, numerous and varied state-of-art accessible design and adaptable technologies.

The house will be open for visitation a minimum of five hours and a maximum of 12 hours daily. At least one person will be available on premises during all open hours to lead tours and answer questions. The house and surrounding landscape may be used as a teaching lab for students. The entire house will be available for group tours based on prior appointment.

The house will contain a library of information and brochures on construction design, furniture and equipment for research use by visitors.

The major focus of activities will be to inform physically impaired individuals and families, educators, and service providers, architects and builders about current developments in accessibility rehabilitation, technology and associated disability legislation.

To the greatest extent possible,

- The house will be built using donated property and building materials supplied by local businesses.
- Interior cabinets, fixtures and floor covering will be donated by local businesses.
- Labor will be donated or provided by organizations like Fresh Start, local high school shop classes

Funding will be solicited from local businesses, foundations, and the community-at-large.

*Solutions for people with challenges in mobility, vision and hearing*