

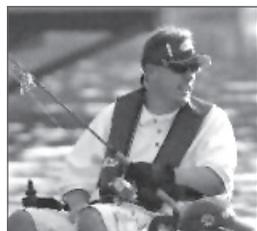
# THE OPEN DOOR

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?



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# LET'S GET OUTDOORS

**BY NICK TAYLOR**  
The Open Door

**W**ith the nice weather on its way for us to enjoy, now is a good time to learn about the many adaptive recreation options available to folks in the Access to Independence service region.

I'll begin by focusing on the more well-known resources such as Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR), which serves the Madison Metropolitan School District. They offer a multitude of recreation opportunities including, but not limited to: Golf, day trips to sporting events such as the Milwaukee Brewers, Pontoon boat rides and fitness groups. If you don't live within the Madison Metropolitan School District, you can check with your local school and/or town's recreation department for options.

**SEE OUTDOORS, PAGE 4**



Accessible cabin at Mirror Lake State Park.  
Photo copyright Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

## CONTACT MSCR

For more info contact Chad Thom, Adaptive Supervisor at 608-204-3020.



# Inaugural fundraising event begins May 6th

**R**eel Access to Real Independence is a raffle and a fishing contest with a grand prize drawing, and will run from May 6th through October 27th. There will be a two-month Spring, Summer, and Fall phase. All tickets are \$10 each, and tickets sales will be used to support Access to Independence, as well as a portion going to the winners of the fishing contest, and ticket sales partners.

## How it Works

When you buy a ticket from ACCESS, or a participating location\*, you are entering the grand prize drawing, a raffle, a fishing contest, and receiving a FREE membership to an online fishing club!

**Raffles:** During each two-month phase, tickets purchased will be entered into prize drawings, valued at over \$500! Any tickets purchased during any of the three phases will be entered into the year-end grand prize drawing, with a prize valued at \$1,000!

**Fishing Contest:** When you purchase a ticket, you can indicate the type of fish you are seeking. If you'll be fishing for more than one type of fish, you can



TOP: Pictured is a man in a wheelchair fishing from a boat. *Photo courtesy of BraunAbility*



LEFT: Pictured is a man in a wheelchair fishing from a pier. *Photo courtesy of WalSall Council*

buy more than one ticket. The eligible fish species include Bass, Bluegills, Muskies, and Walleyes. If you catch the type of fish during the phase you hold a ticket for, you can enter it in the contest\*. The largest fish for each species during each two-month phase

will win a cash prize starting at \$50. Don't catch a thing? Don't worry! All tickets purchased will be entered into the raffles, and will receive a free fishing club membership.

**SEE REEL ACCESS, PAGE 5**



## Help ACCESS Reduce Costs

By requesting your newsletter in email format, you can help ACCESS reduce printing costs while still receiving the same great information! Contact us today to change how you read *The Open Door*.



TOP: Pictured are Alice and Moriah serving brats at a previous brat sale.

LEFT: Pictured are Jason and Nick grilling brats at a previous brat sale.

*Photos courtesy of ACCESS*

## 6th Annual Summer Brat Sale on Friday, June 23rd

**F**or the 6th summer in a row, ACCESS will be hosting our annual Brat Sale, right in our parking lot at 3810 Milwaukee Street, in Madison. In addition to the delicious bratwurst you've come to expect, we'll have some fun activities to promote our inaugural Reel Access to Real Independence raffle and fishing contest. Also this year, we expect to sell our 3,000th bratwurst, and whoever is the lucky soul to buy it will win 6 free brats and a few extra gifts.



Pictured are Geri, Pat, Tracy, and Dee all assisting with a previous brat sale.

*Photo courtesy of ACCESS*

### MORE INFO

Stop by between 11am and 5 pm, rain or shine.

Here's the menu:

**Brats:** \$2.50

**Chips:** .50¢

**Soda/water:** \$1.00

We welcome advance orders, especially for 10 or more per order.

You can place pre-orders up until 4:30 pm on June 22nd, by calling 608-242-8484.



## MY SUCCESS STORY

By Ashley

My name is Ashley and, once upon a time, I had no clue how to “adult.” I could get myself to and from a job most days. I could shower every day, usually. I sometimes remembered to brush my teeth. Honestly though, chores, cooking, planning out my day, and using most other skills attributed to being an independent adult were beyond me. I couldn’t figure out how to do it for the life of me. It wasn’t until I contacted Access to Independence and basically screamed “HELP ME” that I truly learned how to be independent. It wasn’t really even about “adulthood” like I thought it was. It was about being an independent person.

At the time I sought out Access to Independence, I was on disability leave from a job that I would never return to. I also was facing divorce, and becoming a single mother for the second time in my life. I had to figure out how to help myself help my son stay alive. Maybe that’s a little crass, but I was afraid he would starve to death if I didn’t learn how to be independent. With the help of my Independent Living Specialist, Tracy, I was able to gain the skills I needed - she saved a life, well, actually two, my sons and my own. She came to my house and helped me set new goals to achieve.

One of many goals that she helped me to achieve was

**SEE SUCCESS, PAGE 5**

## OUTDOORS

FROM PAGE 1

On the state level, the Department of Natural Resources has a handful of state parks that have accessible cabins. Locally, the options are Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit (about an hour’s drive from Madison going toward Milwaukee) and Mirror Lake State Park (near Wisconsin Dells and Baraboo). Additionally, Mirror Lake State Park has a few adaptive kayaks for rent if you are a more adventurous person.

If you enjoy fishing, state parks have accessible piers so check with those individual parks to find out about their specific locations and any applicable hours of operation. Also, be sure to get your fishing license to ensure you don’t get in trouble. Finally don’t forget



**CONTACT DNR**  
For more information, contact the DNR at 1-888-936-7463.

If you have difficulty contacting the resources provided, give us a call at 608-242-8484 (toll-free 1-800-362-9877) and we will help you get hooked up with the right folks.

that Access to Independence is holding a raffle and fishing contest fundraiser from May 6th, through October 27th, so be sure to check out that article for more details.



Pictured is an accessible fishing pier at a Wisconsin State Park.  
*Photo copyright Wisconsin DNR*



Pictured is a man in a wheelchair fishing from the river shoreline.  
*Photo courtesy of Wild River Guides*

## REEL ACCESS

FROM PAGE 2

**Free Membership:** All tickets purchased will receive a complimentary 1-year membership to the nationwide online fishing club, Fishwithme.net. At the time of purchase, a card with a discount code will be provided, and that code can be entered when signing up to the club. This is a \$30 value for free!

\*For a list of vendors, contest

rules, and event updates, go to [www.reelaccess.org](http://www.reelaccess.org). No internet access? Then call Jason at 608-242-8484, and information can be provided over the phone or by mail.

### The Benefit

As noted, proceeds from ticket sales will go to support the incredible work being provided by Access to Independence. Even if you have no interest in fishing, buying a ticket(s) gets you entered into a raffle and grand prize drawing.

## SUCCESS

FROM PAGE 4

learning how to cook - a skill, like I mentioned before, that was not one that I thought was easily attainable. We didn't work on cooking right away, but we gradually stepped into cooking. First, she helped me to research recipes that I thought I could try. We wrote out a grocery list. We went grocery shopping. We went through many recipes step by step. She also taught me that substituting ingredients was just fine, and it was ok to make mistakes. She was a blessing in my life. Today, not even a year later, I am able to research recipes, try new recipes, and experiment with adding or subtracting from recipes without being scared, and without much hesitation. My Independent Living Specialist was a true life saver.

I am not a perfect person, I still struggle. I have PTSD and my days of confidence are up and down. However, I was shown that I am able to be an independent person. I CAN do these things that overwhelm me.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

- Katherine Choinoski 
- Beth Kowing 
- Charlene Breunig 
- Evan & Louise Adams 
- Marci Rosen 
- Jeff Sasser 
- Alden & Pamela Bosben 
- Carol Peik 
- Anne Edwardson 
- Steve & Alice Yuroff 
- Sally Wilmeth 
- Marilyn Feil 
- Norman Bair 
- Gene Becker 
- Norma Klagos 
- Judy Lopez 
- Tom Collins 

Access to Independence greatly appreciates the generosity of all those who have made a financial contribution – big or small – to our organization. Through the generosity of our donors, ACCESS is able to expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to access demonstrations and free loans of assistive technology equipment, skills training in peoples' homes and classes at our office in Madison, among the wide array of services we provide. We'd like to begin recognizing donors each quarter, thank each of you for your generosity!

 United Way Donation

 Financial Donation

 AT/Equipment Donation



# ACCESS

TO INDEPENDENCE INC.



## Summer Camps 2017

Join us this summer for **TWO** separate summer camps!

### Self-Advocacy

When: June 19<sup>th</sup> – June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 10:00 am- Noon

Where: The Boys and Girls Club Taft  
Location  
2001 Taft St, Madison, WI 53713

### Soft Skills in the Workplace

When: June 26<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>

Time: 10:00 am- Noon

Where: The Boys and Girls Club Taft  
Location  
2001 Taft St, Madison, WI 53713



## GET INVOLVED

Each session is 2 hours long. All materials, paperwork and activities are provided by the facilitator. *All participating youth must be DVR participants and have Help Yourself or Skills to Pay the Bills written into their IPE.* The facilitator can assist with getting students connected with DVR. All participants need to be youth with disabilities.

\*To enroll contact Jason Beloungy at 608-242-8484 ext. 229 or [Jasonb@accesstoind.org](mailto:Jasonb@accesstoind.org)

# WisLoan and TeleWork Loan Programs

## Funding Independence!

WisLoan and TeleWork are alternative loan programs that assist Wisconsin residents with disabilities to pay for assistive technology, or to purchase the necessary equipment and technology to enable people to work from home. These loan programs are different than traditional bank loans because a bank doesn't make the final decision. The WisLoan and Telework Board does. That allows flexibility for people who may have an item they need to maintain their independence, but have trouble coming up with the money all at once, or finding other ways to pay for what they need. Simply call Access to Independence for information.

## WisLoan:

**What Can I Buy with a WisLoan?** You can purchase technology such as wheelchairs, computers, ramps, vehicle modifications, or kitchen or bathroom remodeling projects or construction.

## TeleWork:

**What Can I Buy with a TeleWork Loan?** You can purchase items such as computers and software, scanners or fax machines, tools, office furniture, or modifications for an accessible office.

## General Questions:

**How much can I borrow?** Loan amounts range from \$500 to \$50,000. The loan would be for the exact amount of the item. Can I apply if I have no job? YES, Social Security Disability or Retirement benefits and other sources of income are considered. Can I apply if my credit is poor? YES, the reason for the poor credit is considered, as is one's ability to repay the loan. How do I apply? Contact ACCESS to complete the loan application materials in person. Application can be done at the ACCESS office or at a location of your preference.

## PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

Donations can also be made online. Visit [www.accesstoind.org](http://www.accesstoind.org) and click the "Donate" tab.

**ONE MILLION DOLLARS**  
**ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE**  
**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**1,000,000**

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Please cut out and mail to ACCESS at the address listed on the back with your donation.



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*And people  
like YOU!*

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