

Association for Persons with Disabilities **Free State**

Issue 4

Newsletter



An Interview with
Charles Marais

From Our Side

The *Association for Persons with Disabilities* acknowledges and values the uniqueness of people and contributes to the ability of clients to take responsibility for themselves, moving from a state of dependence to increasing independence, from the expression of negative feelings to positive ones, from confusion to insight and from being paralyzed to taking action.

Jean Webber Home is a unique residential empowerment facility for persons with severe physical disabilities. This facility provides a home for 37 people who need physical support for most essential activities of daily living. We receive a subsidy of 25% of the running cost from the Department of Social Development. The demographics of the residents do not only cover Mangaung but the entire Free State Province. Our Jean Webber Home residents are heroes.

We believe in being content with what you have, rejoice in the way things are and the whole world belongs to you. Our team wishes to thank the media, the Department of Social Development and the public of the Free State Province for being our friends. You make us strong and help us believe in the future and ability of persons with disabilities.

Jackie Malan



I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles. Once you choose hope, anything's possible.

—Christopher Reeve

Charles Marais



“The only disability is a bad attitude

At the tender age of only three years a terrible car accident left this handsome young man not only fatherless, but also paralyzed from the waist down. We chatted to Charles about his dreams and his goals for the future.

 ***Tell us a bit more about the accident***

I was told that my father, my cousin and I were on our way somewhere when my father lost control of the vehicle we were travelling in. The car rolled several times and eventually stopped.

My dad died at the scene, my cousin was seriously injured and I was paralyzed.

Charles Marais

What was your childhood like?

I grew up like most other kids. I went to school and excelled in sport like table tennis, javelin, shot-put and golf. I was also a drama student; which I enjoyed tremendously! I also had good role models. Our headmaster once said: “The only disability is a bad attitude.” I will never forget those words.

What are you grateful for?

I am grateful that I got a second chance in life and I am determined to make the best of it.

What are your goals for the future? What do you dream of?

I enrolled in and finished an IT Tec course this past year. This will enable me to do all sorts of IT work. (I enjoy working with computers.)

It has always been my dream to follow my passion to become an actor. I enjoy acting and have fond memories of when I did this at school.

What has been your experience with the Association for Persons with Disabilities?

I appreciate the good care and service I receive here. We are like a big family and we always look for ways to help each other.

Access One Stop

Koos Sethlabi

We
keep the
wheels
moving!



Access One Stop

Persons with disabilities need specialized support and assistive devices for their day to day functioning.

Access One Stop is one of the few places where people in the Bloemfontein area can come for repairs on wheel chairs and other assistive devices.

Access One Stop renders this service to all persons with disabilities. This service also includes the evaluation and issuing of parking discs to persons with disabilities. In co-operation with the Mangaung Municipality, we do the assessments of applicants for parking discs.

We also rent-out manual and electric wheel chairs on a day, week or month basis.

Contact our offices for more information.

Our Sponsors

A big thank you!

We want to thank the following sponsors for their generosity and support this month. You surely make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities!



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Association for Persons with Disabilities
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