

Association for Persons with Disabilities **Free State**

Newsletter | Issue 8



An Interview with **Jacob Louw**

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From Our Side

We often take the ability to move around in our home and community for granted, but for someone with a disability even the smallest step can prevent them from accessing all parts of his or her life.

Being wheel mobile enhances a person's ability to learn, interact with others, earn a living and participate in the community.

For people with mobility impairments, a variety of mobility aids and devices are available to provide support, motion and access, as well as to enable them to lead an active and fulfilling life.

For those who have also lost mobility in their hands, an electric wheelchair can play an important role in intergrating these dear one's back into society.

As with anything in life, having to buy and maintain motorized devices are a costly exercise. We therefore appreciate any funding in enabling us to acquire and maintain these life-savers!

May we keep all those in mind who are a little bit less fortunate then what we are.

Take care,

Mirinda Kruger
Operational Manager



I took my sight and mobility for granted
— Sue Townsend

Jacob Louw

‘*When I got my first electric wheelchair, I got my feet back!*’



One of the first people you meet when visiting the premises of APD—Free State in Bloemfontein, is security guard Jacob Louw with his welcoming smile. But behind that smile lurks the story of a terrible horse-and-carriage accident that changed his life forever more than 30 years ago. Today, Jacob is grateful to be alive as he recounts the events of that fateful day.

 ***Please tell us more about the accident.***

I grew up as a farm boy in Trompsburg. One day I decided to take a few people to town in a horse-drawn carriage. Along the way, I lost the reins and in an effort to retrieve them, I fell and landed between the horses and the carriage. I broke my back and eventually woke up in hospital.

What happened after the accident?

Well, I stayed in hospital for more than eight months – receiving intensive physiotherapy and rehabilitation to help me adapt to my new circumstances. I was eventually discharged from hospital; paralyzed from the waist down.

How did you manage with your new best friend, your wheelchair?

Well, I received a manual wheelchair to assist with my mobility. But as I also lost the functionality of my hands, I was unable to maneuver myself around and stayed dependent on people.

What impact did it have when you received your first electric-operated wheelchair?

Wow! When I got my first electric wheelchair I got my feet back! It made me independent again and gave me a new lease on life!

How can the community help those needing assistive devices?

Assistive devices are very expensive. And electric wheelchairs need regular maintenance – wheels need to be replaced and batteries die. To replace these are expensive. When the public donate funds or assistive devices, they positively change the lives of those living with a disabling condition. We appreciate those in our community who remember us!

Parking Discs



Having to deal with a disability impairing one's mobility is challenging enough; having to apply for a parking disc should not!

That is why the *Association for Persons with Disabilities – Free State* facilitates the application process between the traffic department and the municipality.

To qualify for a parking permit, the applicant must be mobility impaired and require the use of an assistive device to promote his or her mobility. A screening panel interviews each applicant to ensure that they meet all the necessary criteria.

This application and screening process takes place every second month at the offices of APD.

Please contact our office for more information.



How you can help!

How you
can **help!**



The most convenient way to donate on a regular basis is by means of a debit order.

A debit order of R100 a month can make a big difference in the lives of those with disabilities.

By donating to us you can help us to help those with disabilities to reach their full potential and to enable them to live a fulfilling life!

Please get in touch with our finance department at finance@apdfs.co.za to discuss our hassle-free and safe debit order options .





Browsing Market **26 May 2018** **08h00 - 12h00.**

APD will have their next browsing market on Saturday, 26 May 2018, from 08h00 until 12h00.

We will be selling household items, ornaments, paintings and much more at a bargain.

If you have any unwanted items, you are more than welcome to donate it to us. You can also join us and sell it yourself. Available stalls cost R150 per stall and 10% of your total sales. It is a win-win situation.

We will have delicious soup and bread, pancakes and coffee for sale.

The browsing market will be on the premises of APD at 47 Park Road, Willows. We are opposite the Tourism Center.

Please come and support our unique browsing market.

For any queries please contact Ilona Boshoff on 051 430 2883.

Our Sponsors

Thank you to our
sponsors this month!

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APD Fundraising

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Account Nr.: 405 204 5103

Branch Code: 63-2005

Reference: Donation + Name

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