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Press Release

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For Immediate Release; Local Charity Reaches Milestone: Over 1,000 People Assisted With Unmet Mobility Needs

(Grand Rapids, MI) Alternatives in Motion recently celebrated the major milestone of providing mobility and independence to their 1,000th recipient since 1995. This accomplishment represents over \$4.1 million raised in cash and in-kind donations benefiting 673 individuals from 133 Michigan cities and 21 states.

Of the 1,014 times Alternatives in Motion has provided assistance, 153 individuals have received assistance two or more times, further demonstrating the organization's commitment to mobility. "Many people don't realize that a wheelchair is similar to a car. Tires and batteries need to be replaced frequently, electronics malfunction, breakdowns happen. We don't just give someone a chair and forget about them, we do everything we can to keep them going," said Matt Chapman, Director of Marketing.

"We rely heavily on in-kind mobility equipment donations through the network donors and supporters we have developed over the years. We often receive nearly new wheelchairs from donors who just want to see the equipment put to good use," said Liz Spieker, Program Coordinator. Private financial support allows Alternatives in Motion to repair and refurbish this equipment before delivering it to an appropriate recipient. This sustainable focus on recycling and re-using mobility equipment is what makes the mission of Alternatives in Motion so unique.

The 1,014 recipients represent 43 different medically diagnosed disabilities ranging in age from 11 months to 95 years old. "We believe everyone who needs a wheelchair should be able to get one," said George Ranville, Alternatives in Motion's Executive Director. "Through private donations and many volunteer hours, we are changing lives by giving the gift of mobility," Ranville said.

In order to effectively carry out their mission, Alternatives in Motion maintains beneficial relationships with many nonprofit organizations and durable medical equipment vendors throughout the state of Michigan. To learn more about how Alternatives in Motion is *Moving People Forward Through the Gift of Mobility* please call Matt Chapman at (616) 493-2620 to schedule a private media tour.

Founded in 1995 by George Ranville and Johnnie Tuitel, Alternatives in Motion is a privately funded Grand Rapids based nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization whose mission is to provide wheelchairs to individuals who do not qualify for other assistance, and who could not obtain such equipment without financial aid. For more information visit: www.alternativesinmotion.org

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