

# ALTERNATIVES IN MOTION

**The Mission:** Provide wheelchairs to people who need them but cannot afford them, and who do not qualify for any other financial assistance.



*✱ Where Would I be Without Alternatives in Motion? ✱*

*~Cathy Catlett  
1998 Wheelchair Recipient*

The board and staff of Alternatives in Motion, continue to believe every American should be able to obtain the wheelchair they need as one of the basics of life.

Unfortunately there are uninjured people who fall through the cracks of the system, and who cannot get that basic need fulfilled. We know, because people regularly call on us as their last “alternative” source for wheelchairs. When we provide a wheelchair, we put people back in “motion” which explains our name “Alternatives in Motion.”

To be that alternative, we have to fundraise to cover all the necessary costs involved. What keeps us motivated? We hear over and over from recipients like Cathy and Sandy, “Where would I be without Alternatives in Motion?”

Please support our mission and help us to continue providing assistance for people who need wheel-



*“With out my chair, I wouldn’t be able to go to work, get outside, or even get around my apartment. It is like my heart, I can’t live without it.”*

**Sandy Bush, 2005 Recipient**

chairs. We accept new and gently used wheelchairs and all donations, are tax deductible.

Please Visit:

[www.alternativesinmotion.org](http://www.alternativesinmotion.org)

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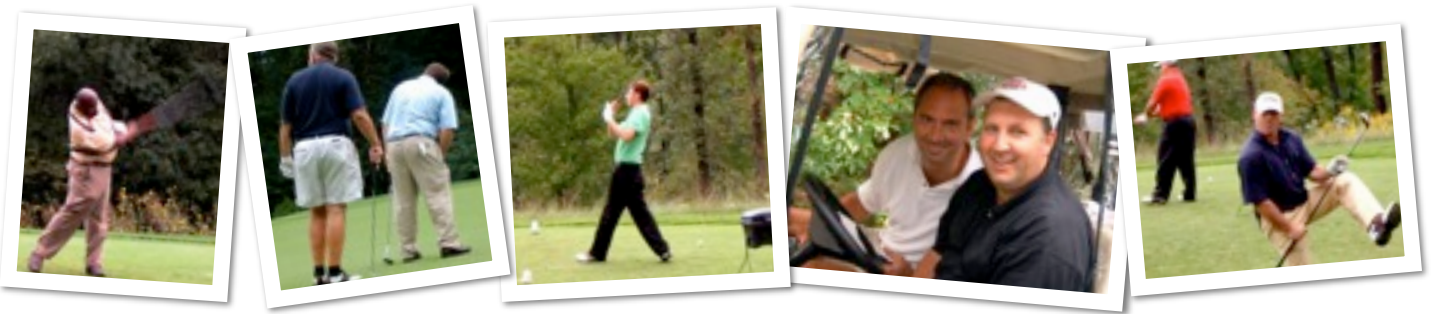
## A Recent Recipient

Angelica is a 2005 recipient of an Invacare Power Tiger tilting wheelchair. Angelica received her new chair shortly after it was donated to Alternatives in Motion. The chair was in great shape

and we knew it would suite Angelica’s medical and mobility needs. This is another beautiful example of how helpful donations of new and gently used mobility equipment are to the mission of our organization. Please call us today so we can coordinate the pick up or drop

off of your equipment and help more people like Angelica.





## “What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic



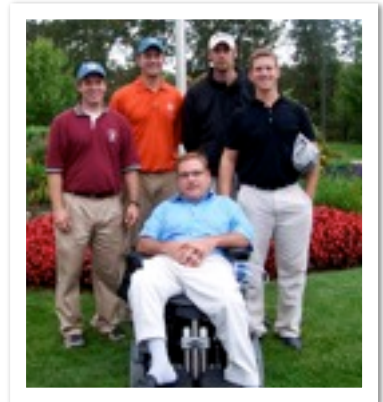
On Wednesday September 13, 2006 eighty two individuals braved the weather in support of Alternatives in Motion at the Second Annual “What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic. This year’s event, held at Thousand Oaks Golf Club, was once again a huge success bringing in a total of **\$18,330** for Alternatives in Motion. Three new manual wheelchairs were also donated from local wheelchair vendors. Thank you to everyone who played in the tournament and to all of the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the day so successful. Special thanks goes out to MTG Mobility ([www.mtgmobility.com](http://www.mtgmobility.com)) and Permobil ([www.permobil.com](http://www.permobil.com)) who served as our “Tuitel Sponsors.”

Mark your calendars for August 14, 2007 so you don’t miss the Third Annual “What’s Your Handicap?” Golf Classic. Planning is already underway for this great event and we are very excited to announce we will once again be at Thousand Oaks Golf Club. Don’t miss your opportunity to play one of the top 25 golf courses in Michigan. ([www.thousandoaksgolf.com](http://www.thousandoaksgolf.com))

## Hole-in-One Winner

Special congratulations are in order for Brian Meiste who shot a hole-in-one while playing in this year’s event. Brian shot his ace on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole, a 142 yard par-three.

Witnesses to this accomplishment were teammates Mark Vanden Bosch, Mark Vanden Berg, and Chad Pierce. Brian was presented with a framed tournament flag with an engraved plaque and photo of his foursome. Congratulations Brian!



Brian Meiste (orange shirt) and his foursome with Johnnie Tuitel, A.I.M. Founder

### 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Cecil Lawson**



# Grand Haven Pig Roast

Each year Grand Haven Central High School students hold a pig roast on the last day of school and donate the proceeds to charity. After Johnnie spoke to their school earlier in the year, students wanted to return the favor and chose Alternatives in Motion as the beneficiary. We enjoyed the excuse to visit Grand Haven on that warm last day of school in June, and we can attest to the fact the food was great! Social Science teacher, and event coordinator, Casey Wilkinson presented

Alternatives in Motion with a check for \$2,356. Many thanks to the students, to Casey, and to all in the Grand Haven community who supported the students of Grand Haven Central High!

## Putting a Wheelchair To Good Use

Clement Chiwaya is a native of Malawi, Africa who we helped get a chair in 1998 while he was a student at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. During his summer breaks, Clement flew to Malawi and spearheaded projects like installing metal roofs on huts, digging wells for easy access to water, planting trees, distributing food, and buying livestock and supplies for farming. All projects aimed to help the people in his village.

In 2002 Clement graduated from Aquinas and departed for Malawi. Before he left, we made sure he had a new rigid frame titanium Quickie wheelchair, spare wheels, and 5 pairs of wheeling gloves to help him propel through the rough Malawi terrain. He returned to his country as a strong leader dedicated to improving life in one of the world's poorest countries.

Clement went to work, helping his village by planning for the drilling of more wells and the construction of a school. His reputation spread quickly and he was asked to run for office. Campaigning from his wheelchair, he was elected to parliament and became a minister in the government of Malawi.

In 2005 Clement called frantically asking for help repairing his wheelchair. Fortunately we had the exact wheelchair Clement needed but quickly discovered it would cost over \$5k to ship to Malawi. We coordinated with the Embassy of Malawi in Washington, DC to have a member of the delegation transport the wheelchair as baggage the next time they made the 22 hour trip. Liz Spieker delivered the wheelchair to the embassy in July 2005, and shortly thereafter we heard from Clement thanking us for his new wheelchair.

On May 4, 2006 The Honorable Clement Chiwaya, had the pleasure of meeting with Bono, to offer his assistance in facilitating the work Bono is doing in Africa. They made plans to connect again in Malawi to form a very powerful team. On May 6, 2006, Clement was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences from Aquinas College. We offer our congratulations to The Honorable Dr. Chiwaya!

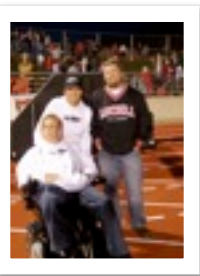


Bono, lead singer of U2 and Clement (98/05 Recipient)





# Lowell High School Homecoming



On September 29 the students at Lowell High School presented Johnnie Tuitel, Founder of Alternatives in Motion, with a gift of nearly \$525. The money came as a fundraising effort sponsored by the student council. All week students learned about Alternatives in Motion and raised money in

support of the cause. Senior Brooke Lu helped coordinate the week-long festivities which included a short presentation on the football field where Johnnie thanked the students, staff, and visitors for their gracious support. Thank you to all the students and staff at Lowell High School for their hard work and commitment to giving back to the community, it is greatly appreciated!

## WHEELCHAIR DONATIONS



In the last three months we have received 10 nearly-new power chairs, 4 brand new walkers, and 5 manual wheelchairs. If you know of anyone who has new or slightly used mobility equipment they

would like to donate, please have them call (616) 493-2620 today so we can arrange a drop off or pick-up time. All donations are tax deductible.

### GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY!

We have a warehouse of approximately 50 used manual and power wheelchairs in need of repair. Unfortunately we are unable to fund all of these necessary repairs at the current time. Every dollar you donate to Alternatives in Motion will go towards repairing this equipment and giving someone the gift of mobility. Whether a little or a lot, your donation could buy new tires for an old manual wheelchair or replace the dead batteries

on one of our stored power chairs.

Please consider giving a monetary donation to Alternatives in Motion because we believe no one should



be limited by their mobility needs. All donations are tax deductible.

Please send your contribution to:  
**Alternatives in Motion 355 Sheldon Blvd. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 24, 2007**

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wheel Run Together 5k Race

**August 14, 2007**

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "What's Your Handicap?" Golf Classic