



ACA Working to Improve Access to Assistive Devices

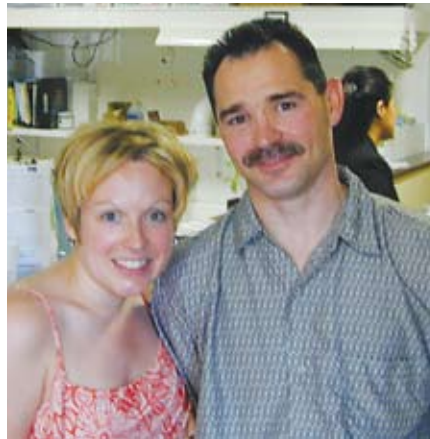
The ACA is proud to be part of the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (ITEM) Coalition. The mission of the ITEM Coalition is to raise awareness and build support for policies that will improve access to assistive devices, technologies and services for people of all ages with disabilities and chronic conditions.

Right now, the ITEM Coalition is working to support the “Medicare Independent Living Act of 2006” (S. 3677), a bill to be introduced by senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Rick Santorum (R-PA). This legislation would modify Medicare’s restriction on “in the home” mobility devices such as wheelchairs and scooters.

Currently, the language regarding mobility devices restricts coverage to only mobility devices that are used in the patient’s home. This has a very negative impact on people who may be able to get around in their own home without a wheelchair or scooter but require an assistive device if they want to leave their home.

The “Medicare Independent Living Act of 2006” will allow people to have access to the devices they need to go to work or school, to get to a doctor’s appointment, or to just live a more active, independent life.

The ACA is proud to work with the ITEM Coalition to push for this important legislation.



Morgan Sheets, ACA's national advocacy director, and Erik Tompkins, CPO

Parity Fundraiser Held in New York

The artists of LIVINGSKIN® recently wrapped up *The Garden Show*, their second fundraising event of the year, at their manufacturing site and art gallery in Newburgh, New York.



Each year, LIVINGSKIN invites its artists to display their work in the art gallery in their downtown storefront. A portion of the proceeds benefits an

organization chosen by the company and the artists. ACA’s APPLL initiative for prosthetic parity was the beneficiary for the 2006 show, receiving approximately \$2,000.

A reception was held on May 27 to kick off the exhibit. The artists, clinicians and staff from LIVINGSKIN and its parent company, Prosthetic and Orthotic Associates International, Inc., attended the opening, joined by various supporters of the local arts and the disabled community and APPLL’s national advocacy director, Morgan Sheets. Joann Hargabus, one of the directors of Action Toward Independence (ATI), a local disability support organization, was also at the show. ATI was the beneficiary of the first annual art show.

“This fundraising event fit perfectly into our mission,” says Tom Passero, CP. “When

we expanded into our current manufacturing location, we wanted to demonstrate our commitment to our employees, to the local community, and to the patients we serve throughout the Hudson Valley and the U.S. Raising funds for ACA’s parity program was a perfect match.”

“Of the many important issues facing amputees right now, the ACA has identified prosthetic parity as critical. I encourage our entire profession to donate and raise funds in their communities to support the ACA’s efforts to push for prosthetic coverage.”

– Tom Passero, CP

Note: No funding from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is used to support ACA advocacy efforts. The views represented in these articles do not necessarily represent the views of the CDC.



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